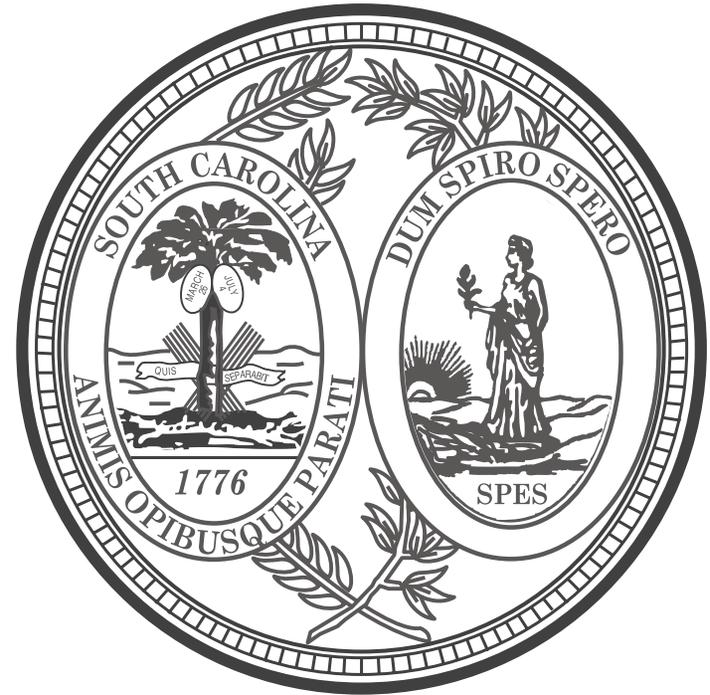


This publication was partially funded with \$4,500 from Federal Grant Number 2001-BJ-CX-K007 from the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Points of view or opinions stated are those of the principal researcher and do not necessarily represent the opinion or official position of the United States Department of Justice.



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# Criminal Victimization Trends in South Carolina



South Carolina Department of Public Safety  
Office of Justice Programs

Prepared by:

South Carolina Department of Public Safety

Office of Justice Programs

Statistical Analysis Center

Editor: Rob McManus

Office of Justice Programs  
South Carolina Department of Public Safety  
PO Box 1993  
Blythewood, South Carolina 29016

FOURTH CLASS

***Criminal Victimization Trends  
in South Carolina***

South Carolina Department of Public Safety

Office of Justice Programs

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## **Acknowledgements**

Authors of each section are noted throughout the report. Their efforts towards the completion of this report were considerable and are greatly appreciated. As this report seeks to build on a previous report *Victims of Crime in South Carolina 1995*, all those who contributed to that report also deserve acknowledgement and appreciation. Staff from SLED's Uniform Crime Report Department and Data Processing Office deserve special recognition for the extraordinary efforts which went into expanding the years for which incident based crime data is now available. Above all, we should acknowledge the ongoing toil of those who have made it their life's work to bind up the wounds of their neighbors.

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# **Criminal Victimization Trends in South Carolina**

The purpose of this publication is twofold: to provide statistical information about crime victims in South Carolina and to provide qualitative information about services to crime victims. The statistical information is intended to raise awareness about victims of crime and the circumstances under which they were victimized. The qualitative information is intended to let people know what is being done for the victims of crime.

As is true with any effort to objectively convey information about a deeply felt and emotionally charged issue, this publication may appear to be insensitive to the plight of crime victims. That is certainly not the intent. The presentation and discussion of the data may be dispassionate, but the response need not be. Indeed the hope is that by the objective presentation of pertinent data, the reader will not only be informed, but come to realize the greater underlying truth: that each number represents a violation of the right of each of us to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

# CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION TRENDS

**Rob McManus**

This report is designed to provide basic information about crime victims and the circumstances of victimization in South Carolina. It seeks to address issues frequently raised about violent crime victims and seeks to clarify any misconceptions that might exist.

The analysis and presentation of crime incident data can be complex and occasionally the results are counter-intuitive. In this report, the level of complexity is compounded by combining data from two different crime incident data-sets. Consequently, throughout this report, every attempt is made to specify the source and nature of the data used. Information about the data sources and the limitations of those data is also presented.

Copies of this report or information regarding this publication can be obtained by writing, calling or sending electronic mail requests to the following:

South Carolina Department of Public Safety  
Office of Justice Programs, Statistical Analysis Center  
PO Box 1993  
Blythewood, SC 29016  
(803) 896-8717  
[robertmcmanus@scdps.net](mailto:robertmcmanus@scdps.net)

Alternatively, this report can be accessed on the following internet site:

[http://www.scdps.org/ojp/statistical\\_analysis.html](http://www.scdps.org/ojp/statistical_analysis.html)



## Definitions

**Violent crime:** Violent crime is defined in this publication as murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault and simple assault. This definition was adopted in an attempt to be consistent with the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), which is a direct survey of crime victims. The NCVS does not, of course, survey murder victims. This definition of violent crime differs from the Uniform Crime Report definition in that it includes simple assault. It also varies from South Carolina's statutory definition of violent crime that includes kidnapping, certain types of burglary, arson and drug dealing and excludes certain types of assault.

**Crime reporting:** When a crime is reported to law enforcement, an incident report containing information about the offense, the victim(s), the offender(s) and anyone arrested in connection to the offense is completed and sent to the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED). This process and its information are referred to as the South Carolina Incident Based Reporting System (SCIBRS) and it provides the basis of most crime and victimization data in South Carolina.

**Victimization rates:** These rates are determined by dividing the number of victims by the population or sub-population of interest. This allows for comparisons over time, between jurisdictions or special populations of interest. It is important to note that counting victims and calculating victimization rates is somewhat different from crime rates. Crime rates usually include only the most serious offense, a practice known as hierarchical counting.

Unless otherwise noted, this report counts victims individually within each offense category.

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of Victims}}{\text{Population}} \quad \times 10,000$$

Formula for calculating percent change:

$$\text{Percent change} = \frac{X2 - X1}{X1}$$

Where: X1 is the number of victims or victimization rate in the previous year.

Where: X2 is the number of victims or victimization rate in the current year.

**Victim to offender relationships:** Perhaps the easiest way to understand this is by substituting the phrase “the victim was” followed by the type of relationship. Since multiple victim to offender relationships occur when there is more than one victim or offender, SCIBRS collects up to ten such relationships. This report only uses the first three victim to offender relationships. As a result, there are usually more victim to offender relationships than there are victims.

**Unreported victims:** For a variety of reasons, crimes are not always reported to law enforcement. As a result, no information is available about the victims or circumstances of these crimes. NCVS data has also been included to provide a better understanding about how much crime goes unreported and as a basis of comparison to reported crime.

**Data sources:** All South Carolina crime victim data were taken from SCIBRS, which was made available by SLED. Although SCIBRS only dates back to 1991, SLED converted and combined, through considerable effort, prior crime incident data going back from 1990 through 1977 with SCIBRS data. For purposes of brevity, this combined data-set is cited throughout the report as SCIBRS. Population estimates used to calculate victimization rates were provided by the South Carolina Budget and Control Board's Office of Research and Statistics (ORS).

**Data limitations/caveats:** Only partial SCIBRS data were available for 1995. Annual victimization rates for 1995 were calculated using Uniform Crime Report data from *Crime in South Carolina 1995* (SLED), when such data were available. It is also important to note that some variables such as weapons or substance abuse are counted by looking at multiple fields within offense records rather than victim records, resulting in different counts. Because of differences in data coding procedures and edits from the pre-SCIBRS incident data and SCIBRS, some fields are missing more data than might otherwise have been the case. These limitations are noted throughout the report as they occur.

## **An Overview of Victimization**

The violent crime victimization rate decreased each year from 1997 through 2000. Despite these recent decreases, the rate at which South Carolinians have become victims of violent crime more than doubled from 1977 through 2000.

Violent crime victims are more likely to be attacked by people they already know than by strangers. Less than a quarter of crime victims were attacked by strangers. Attacks by family members, spouses, romantic acquaintances or other people known to the victim accounted for the more than three-quarters of violent crime victims. Robbery provides an important exception to this observation, with strangers accounting for the majority of victim to offender relationships.

Violent crime victims are nearly evenly distributed in terms of race. However, since the state population is approximately one-third Black and two-thirds White, this distribution is somewhat deceptive. Women accounted for a majority of violent crime victims. It is important to note that this distribution varied by offense. Men constituted a majority of the murder, robbery and aggravated assault victims, while women made up the majority of rape and simple assault victims. Hispanics made up less than one percent of violent crime victims. The fact that 3.8% of violent crime victims were listed as unknown ethnicity could be an indication that identification on the basis of ethnicity on incident reports is a problem.

Weapon use was an important factor in violent crime. A majority of murders involved the use of firearms, most of those being handguns. Personal weapons were more frequently used in robbery and a large majority of rapes. Weapon use in aggravated assault was nearly evenly distributed between blunt objects, knives, firearms and personal weapons.

Alcohol involvement in violent crime was noteworthy. More than a quarter of murder offenders were suspected of using alcohol shortly before or during the offense. Drug use was less frequent. Although 5.4% of murder offenders were suspected of using drugs shortly before or during the offense, 1% or less were reported for rape, robbery, aggravated assault and simple assault.

According to the NCVS, violent crime victimization has declined nationally since 1994. This might appear to put South Carolina at odds with the rest of the nation, but NCVS data should not be compared to SCIBRS data. There are too many differences in how the information from each data set is collected and what the information means to make any such comparison meaningful.

Finally, it is important to remember that these facts and figures can do no more than provide limited information and insight about victims of violent crime. The real life pain and suffering that they endure cannot be translated into mere numbers, but is something we can nonetheless be ever aware of.

***South Carolina's violent crime victimization rate increased from 101.8 per 10,000 in 1977 to 265.3 per 10,000 in 2000.***

**Violent crime:** Violent crime consists of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault and simple assault.

## **VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS**

### **ANNUAL SUMMARY**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Victims</b>	<b>Rate Per 10,000 Inhabitants</b>
1999	106,280	273.5
2000	106,441	265.3
% Change	+0.2%	-3.0%

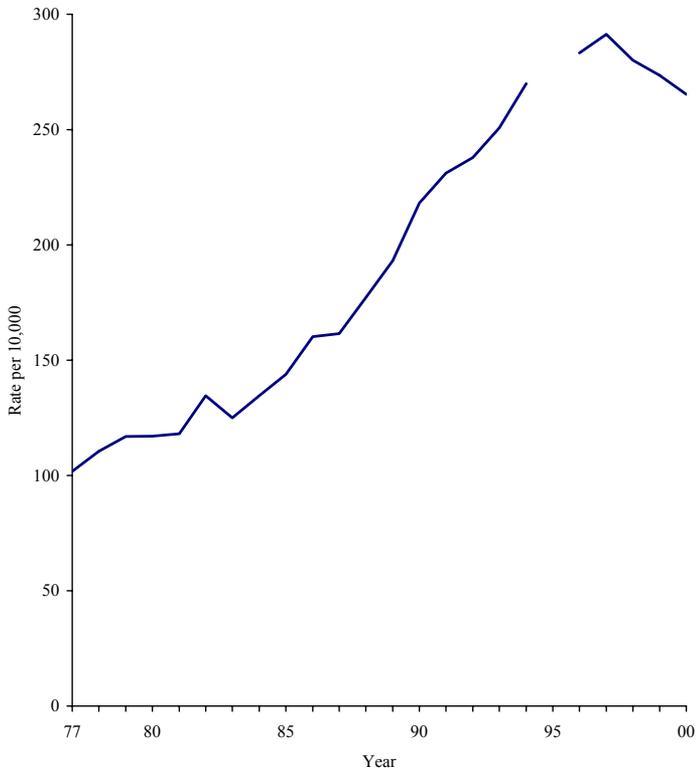
### **MULTI-YEAR TREND**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Victims</b>	<b>Rate Per 10,000 Inhabitants</b>
1977	28,912	101.8
2000	106,441	265.3
% Change	+268.2%	+160.6%

Note: Although victims of multiple crimes are counted within each offense category, they are only counted once as violent crime victims. 1995 is omitted from the chart on the following page as victim counts for robbery and simple assault were not available for that year.

Sources: SCIBRS, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

## Violent Crime Victimization Rate: 1977 - 2000



***County violent crime victimization rates ranged from 317.4 to 86.7 per 10,000.***

**COUNTY VIOLENT VICTIMIZATION RATES  
1977 – 2000**

<b>County</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Abbeville	159.6	Greenwood	317.4
Aiken	173.2	Hampton	88.0
Allendale	184.2	Horry	228.6
Anderson	164.4	Jasper	207.9
Bamberg	106.3	Kershaw	124.6
Barnwell	137.3	Lancaster	212.5
Beaufort	242.2	Laurens	166.7
Berkeley	136.5	Lee	104.0
Calhoun	105.8	Lexington	181.7
Charleston	260.5	McCormick	116.9
Cherokee	152.9	Marion	163.6
Chester	211.8	Marlboro	246.9
Chesterfield	122.4	Newberry	167.7
Clarendon	105.5	Oconee	86.7
Colleton	184.8	Orangeburg	235.8
Darlington	213.7	Pickens	90.2
Dillon	218.6	Richland	241.6
Dorchester	146.3	Saluda	108.3
Edgefield	165.7	Spartanburg	209.8
Fairfield	314.6	Sumter	173.1
Florence	205.6	Union	116.3
Georgetown	202.5	Williamsburg	86.9
Greenville	178.0	York	254.8

Note: 1995 data were not included in determining these rates.  
Sources: SCIBRS, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

***Greenwood County had the highest violent crime victimization rate per 10,000 from 1977 through 2000.***

**VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMIZATION RATE  
1977 – 2000**

<b>County</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Greenwood	317.4
Fairfield	314.6
Charleston	260.5
York	254.8
Marlboro	246.9
Beaufort	242.2
Richland	241.6
Orangeburg	235.8
Horry	228.6
Dillon	218.6

Note: 1995 data were not included in determining these rates.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

***Victims of violent crime usually knew or had a personal relationship with the offender.***

**VICTIM/OFFENDER RELATIONSHIPS:** SCIBRS defines 26 victim to offender relationships. These have been collapsed into five categories: known, stranger, marital, family and romantic. The known category includes friends, acquaintances, employees/employers, neighbors and others who are known but not related, married or romantically involved. The marital category includes spouses, common-law spouses and ex-spouses. The family category includes family relationships other than marital relationships including in-laws and other relatives. The romantic category includes boyfriends, girlfriends and homosexual relationships.

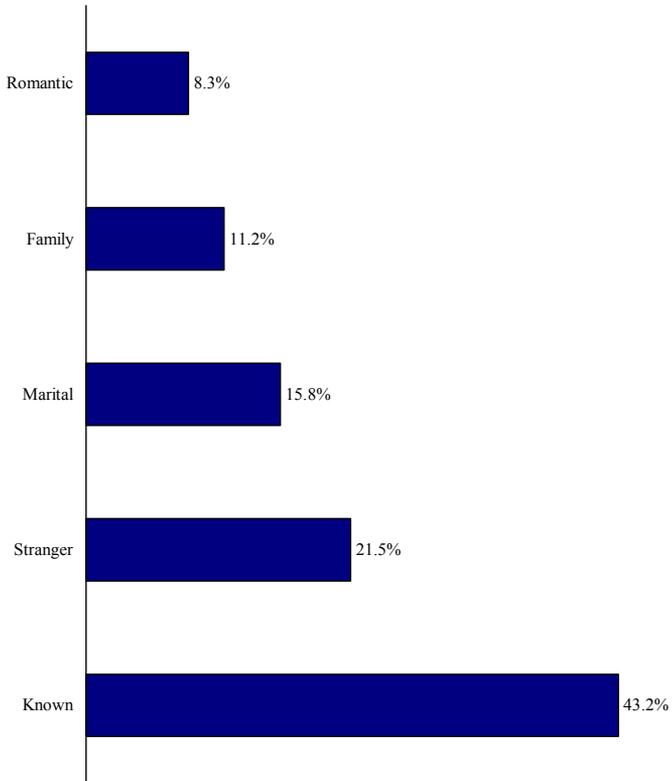
**VICTIM TO OFFENDER RELATIONSHIPS  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Known	701,982	43.2%
Stranger	348,223	21.5%
Marital	256,224	15.8%
Family	182,295	11.2%
Romantic	134,886	8.3%
Total	1,623,610	100.0%

Note: 224,796 cases where the relationship was unknown, where the victim was also the offender or where the data were missing are excluded.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Violent Crime Victim to Offender Relationships: 1977 - 2000



*In cases where the victim knew the offender, but there was not a family or marital relationship, casual acquaintances were involved 88.3% of the time.*

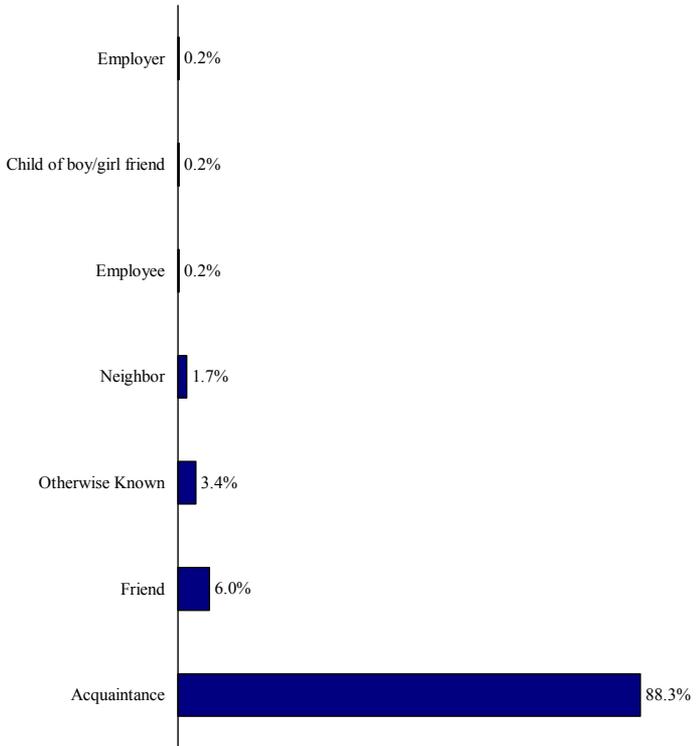
**Known:** Includes the following victim to offender relationships, acquaintance, friend, neighbor, employee, employer, babysitee (the child) and otherwise known.

**VICTIM TO OFFENDER RELATIONSHIPS,  
VICTIM WAS KNOWN TO THE OFFENDER  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Acquaintance	619,960	88.3%
Friend	42,520	6.0%
Otherwise known	23,895	3.4%
Neighbor	11,661	1.7%
Employee	1,367	0.2%
Child of boy/girlfriend	1,302	0.2%
Employer	1,277	0.2%
Total	701,982	100.0%

Note: Otherwise known also includes babysitee (179 cases).  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

**Violent Crime Victim to Offender  
Relationships, Known to Offender:  
1977 - 2000**



***Marital violence accounted for 15.8% of violent criminal victimization.***

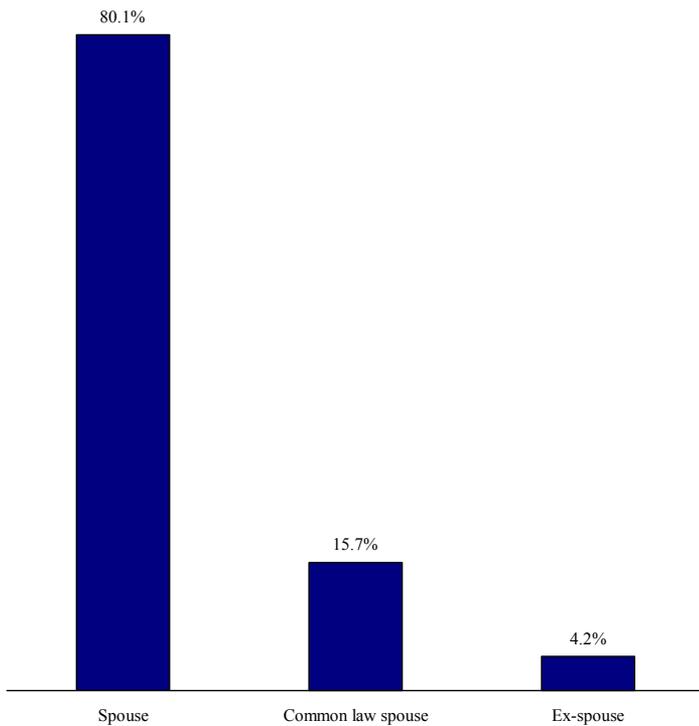
**Marital relationships:** Includes the following victim to offender relationships, spouse, common-law spouse and ex-spouse.

**VICTIM TO OFFENDER RELATIONSHIPS,  
MARITAL RELATIONSHIPS  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Spouse	205,396	80.1%
Common law spouse	40,101	15.7%
Ex-spouse	10,727	4.2%
Total	256,224	100.0%

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Violent Crime Victims in Marital Victim to Offender Relationships: 1977 - 2000



***Family violence accounted for 11.2% of violent criminal victimization.***

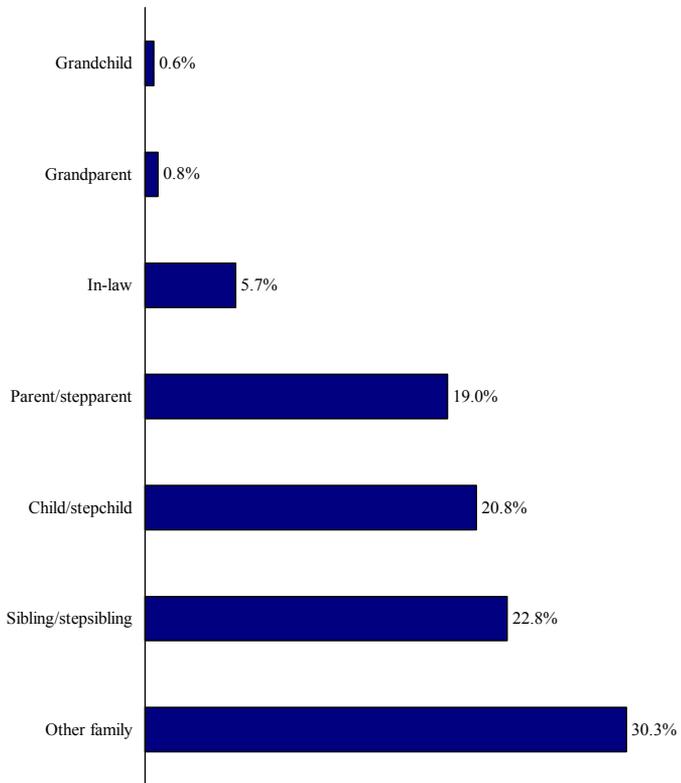
**Family relationships:** Includes the following victim to offender relationships, child, grandchild, grandparent, in-law, other family member, parent, sibling, stepchild, stepparent and stepsibling. For purposes of this report, the victim to offender relationships stepparent and parent, stepchild and child, and stepsibling and sibling were combined.

**VICTIM TO OFFENDER RELATIONSHIPS,  
FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Other family	55,195	30.3%
Sibling/stepsibling	41,523	22.8%
Child/stepchild	37,998	20.8%
Parent/stepparent	34,678	19.0%
In-law	10,397	5.7%
Grandparent	1,495	0.8%
Grandchild	1,009	0.6%
Total	182,295	100.0%

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Violent Crime Victims in Family Victim to Offender Relationships: 1977 - 2000



***Romantic relationships accounted for 8.3% of violent crime victimization.***

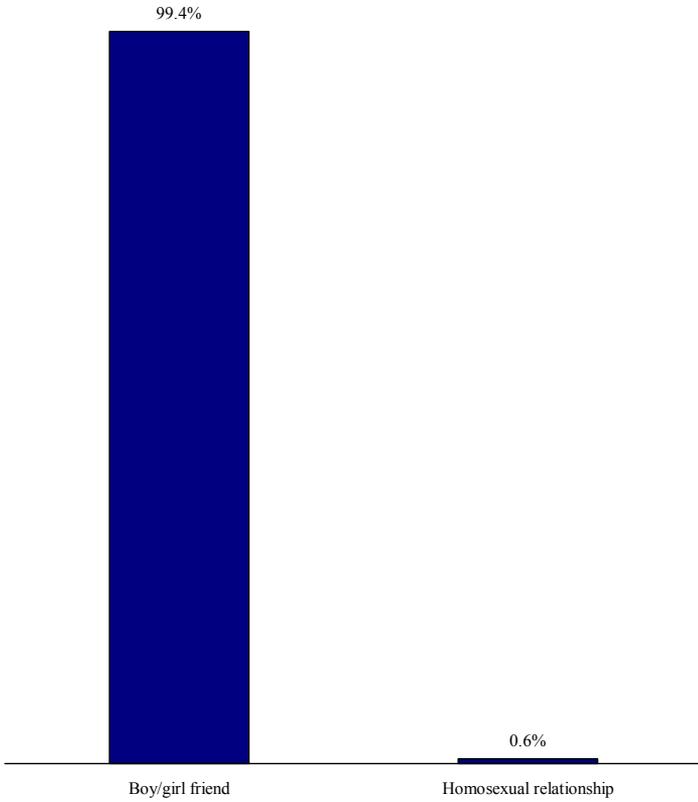
**Romantic relationships:** Includes the following victim to offender relationships, boy/girlfriend and homosexual relationship.

**VICTIM TO OFFENDER RELATIONSHIPS,  
ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Boy/girl friend	134,021	99.4%
Homosexual relationship	865	0.6%
Total	134,886	100.0%

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Victims of Violent Crime in Romantic Victim to Offender Relationships: 1977 - 2000



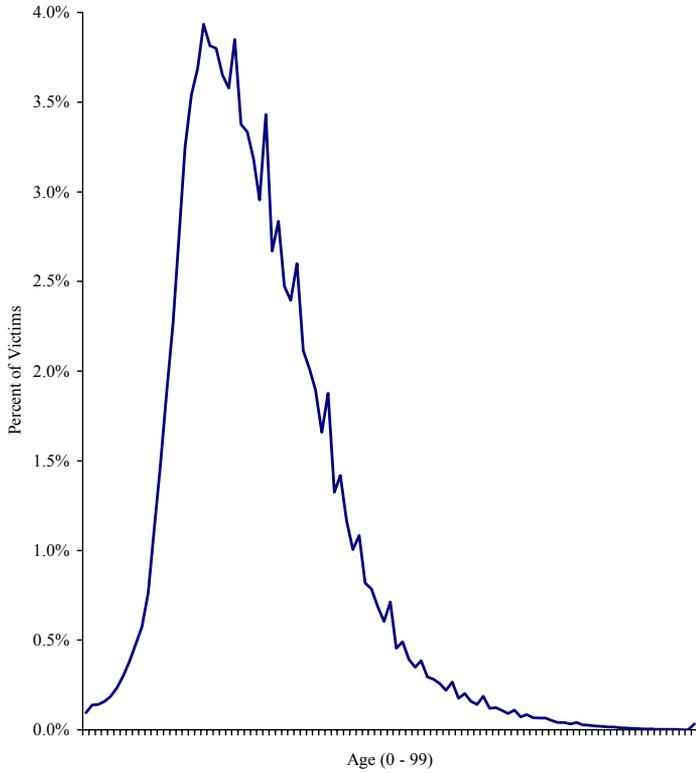
***The mean average age of violent crime victims was 28.8 years. The median age was 27 years.***

**VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS BY AGE  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
5 & younger	10,708	0.7%
6 - 12	57,019	3.8%
13 - 17	172,919	11.6%
18 -21	223,009	15.0%
22 - 24	164,243	11.0%
25 - 34	454,140	30.5%
35 - 44	254,121	17.1%
45 - 54	94,954	6.4%
55 - 64	35,456	2.4%
65 & older	22,371	1.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,488,940</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Note: 142,975 victims for whom age was missing were excluded.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Violent Crime Victims by Age: 1977 - 2000



***Violent crime victims were more often Black than White, Asian or Native American.***

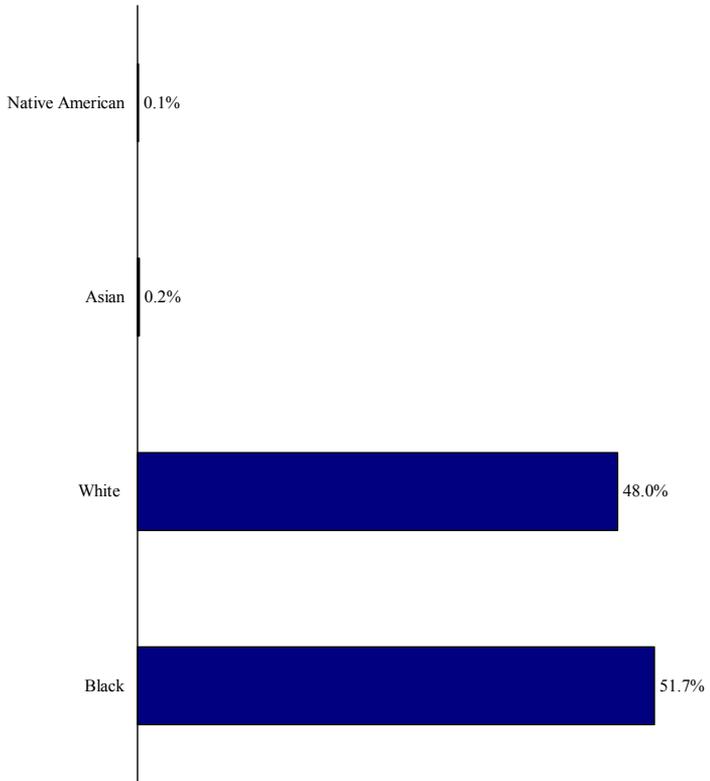
**Race:** SCIBRS has four racial categories, Asian, Black, Native American and White.

**VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS BY RACE  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Race</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Asian	2,787	0.2%
Black	777,964	51.7%
Native American	1,491	0.1%
White	722,454	48.0%
Total	1,504,696	100.0%

Note: 127,461 victims for whom race was unknown or missing were excluded.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Violent Crime Victims by Race: 1977 - 2000



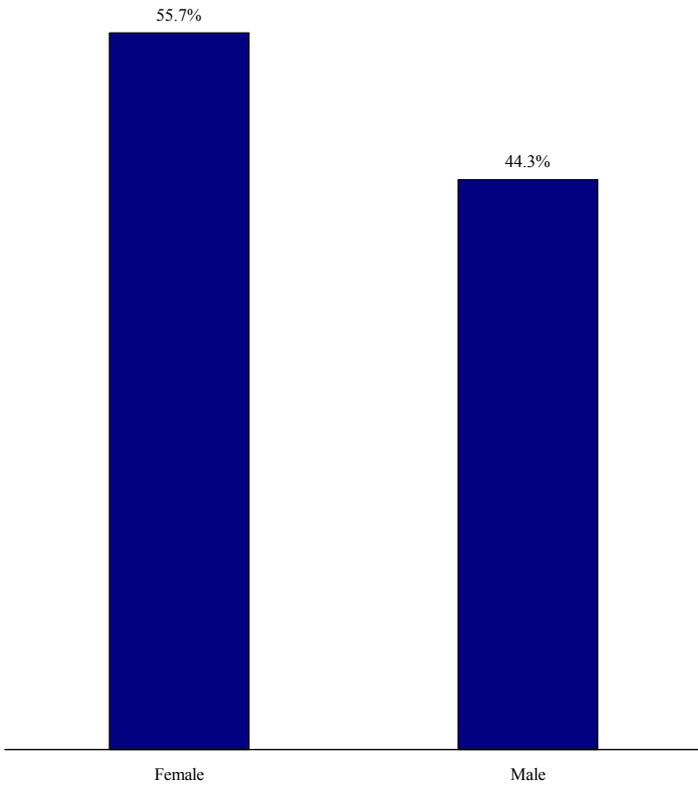
*More violent crime victims were female than male.*

**VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS BY SEX  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Female	839,295	55.7%
Male	667,644	44.3%
Total	1,506,939	100.0%

Note: 124,976 victims for whom sex was unknown or missing were excluded.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Violent Crime Victims by Sex: 1977 - 2000



***Less than one percent of violent crime victims were Hispanic. However, 3.8% of violent crime victims were reported to be of unknown ethnicity.***

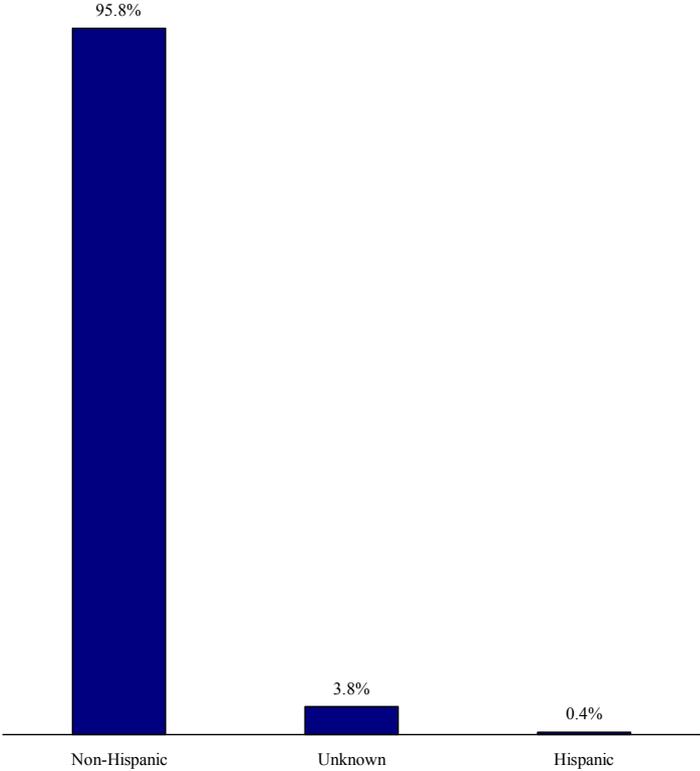
**Ethnicity:** SCIBRS has two ethnicity categories, Hispanic and Non-Hispanic. Victims may also be reported to be of unknown ethnicity. It is important to note that these categories are separate and distinct from racial categories.

**VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS BY ETHNICITY  
1977 - 2000**

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Hispanic	5,267	0.4%
Non-Hispanic	1,440,680	95.8%
Unknown	57,184	3.8%
Total	1,503,131	100.0%

Note: 128,784 victims for whom ethnicity was missing were excluded.  
Source: SCIRBS, SLED.

**Violent Crime Victims by Ethnicity:  
1977 - 2000**



***The murder victimization rate declined from 1.18 per 10,000 in 1977 to 0.74 per 10,000 in 2000.***

**Murder:** Murder is the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another, except for justifiable homicide. This does not include suicides.

## **MURDER VICTIMS**

### **ANNUAL SUMMARY**

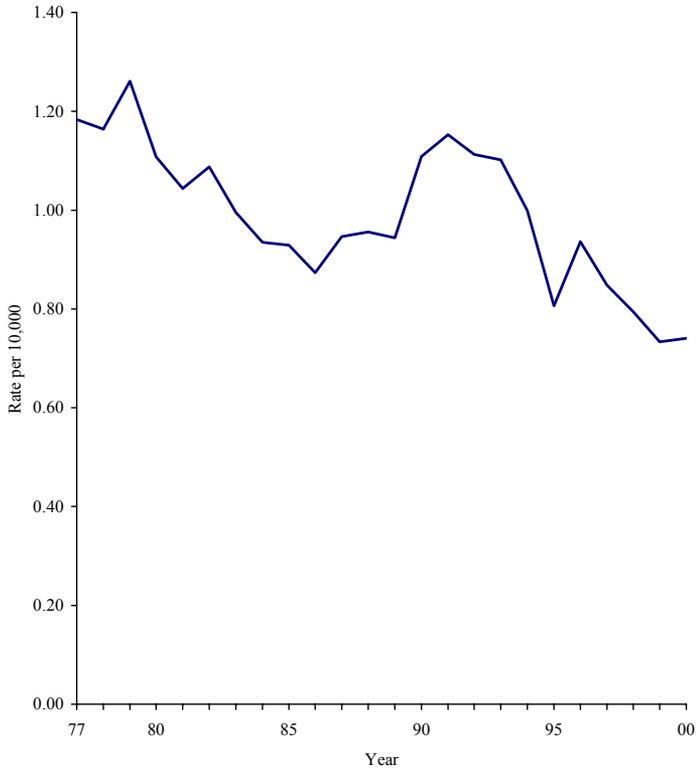
<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Victims</b>	<b>Rate Per 10,000 Inhabitants</b>
1999	285	0.73
2000	297	0.74
% Change	+4.2%	+1.4%

### **MULTI-YEAR TREND**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Victims</b>	<b>Rate Per 10,000 Inhabitants</b>
1977	336	1.18
2000	297	0.74
% Change	-11.6%	-37.3%

Sources: SCIBRS, SLED; Crime in South Carolina 1995, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

## Murder Victimization Rate: 1977 - 2000



***Robbery was the additional offense most often associated with murder, followed by burglary and rape.***

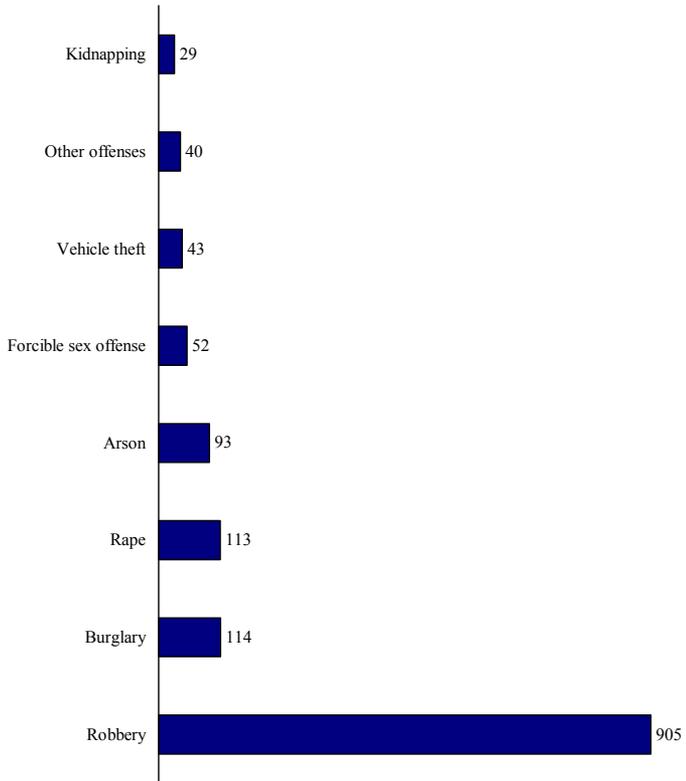
**Associated offenses:** SCIBRS collects information about up to ten additional offenses committed in the course of a crime. This table uses data from the first five offenses.

**ADDITIONAL OFFENSES ASSOCIATED WITH  
MURDER VICTIMS  
1977 - 2000**

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Robbery	905	65.2%
Burglary	114	8.2%
Rape	113	8.1%
Arson	93	6.7%
Forcible sex offense	52	3.7%
Vehicle theft	43	3.1%
Other offenses	40	2.9%
Kidnapping	29	2.1%
Total	1,389	100.0%

Note: Forcible sex offense includes forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object and forcible fondling but not rape.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Other Offenses Associated with Murder Victims: 1977 - 2000



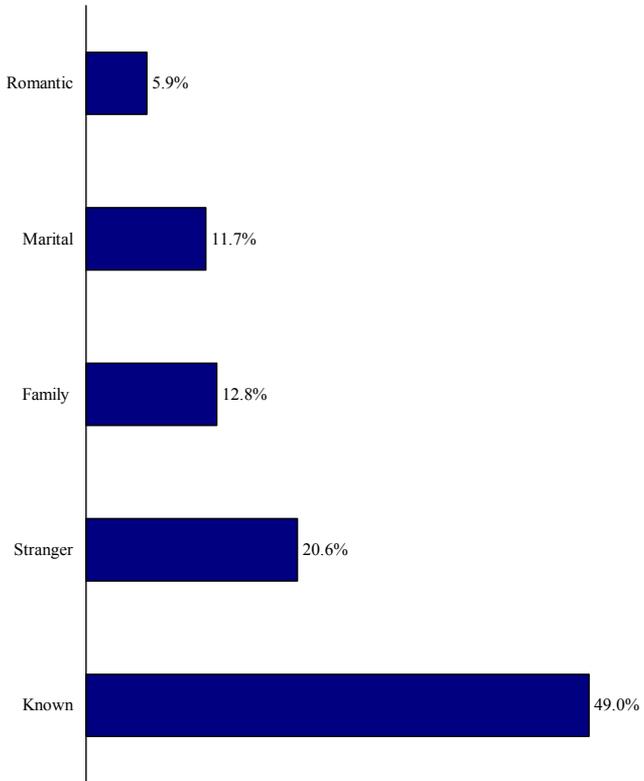
*Most murder victims knew or had a personal relationship with the offender. Strangers accounted for 20.6% of murders.*

**MURDER VICTIM TO OFFENDER  
RELATIONSHIPS  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Known	4,258	49.0%
Stranger	1,791	20.6%
Family	1,108	12.8%
Marital	1,015	11.7%
Romantic	514	5.9%
Total	8,686	100.0%

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Murder Victim to Offender Relationship: 1977 - 2000



*The type of weapon most often involved in murder was a firearm. Handguns accounted for 70.9% of the firearms used in murder.*

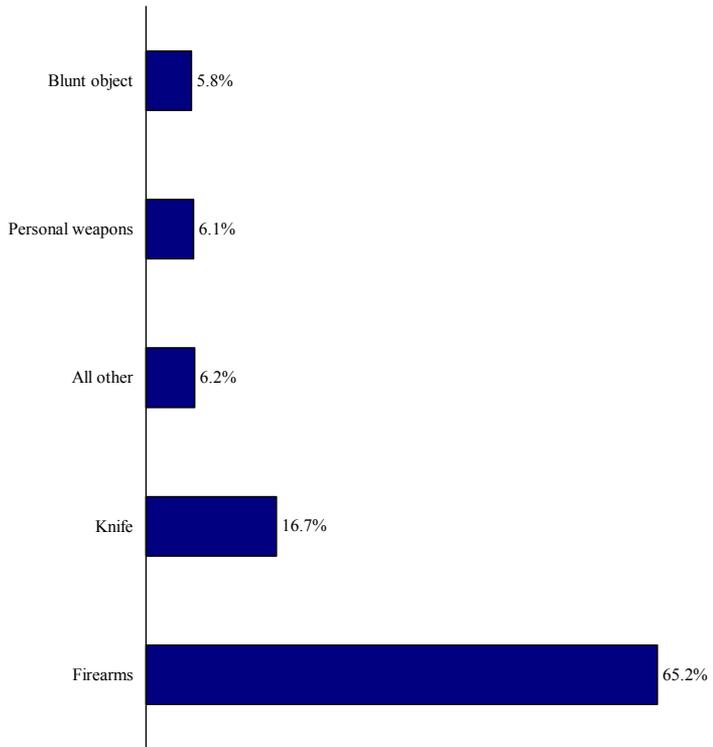
**Weapons:** SCIBRS collects information on up to three weapons per incident, all of which are used in this report. Personal weapons are hands, feet, fists, etc.

**MURDER WEAPONS  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Firearms	5,166	65.2%
Knife	1,320	16.7%
All other	491	6.2%
Personal weapons	481	6.1%
Blunt object	462	5.8%
Total	7,920	100.0%

Note: Based on offense count, three weapons fields. 84 offense records had missing data or no weapon listed.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Murder Weapons: 1977 - 2000



*Alcohol use by the offender was suspected in 27.1% of murders. Offender drug use was suspected in 5.4% of murders.*

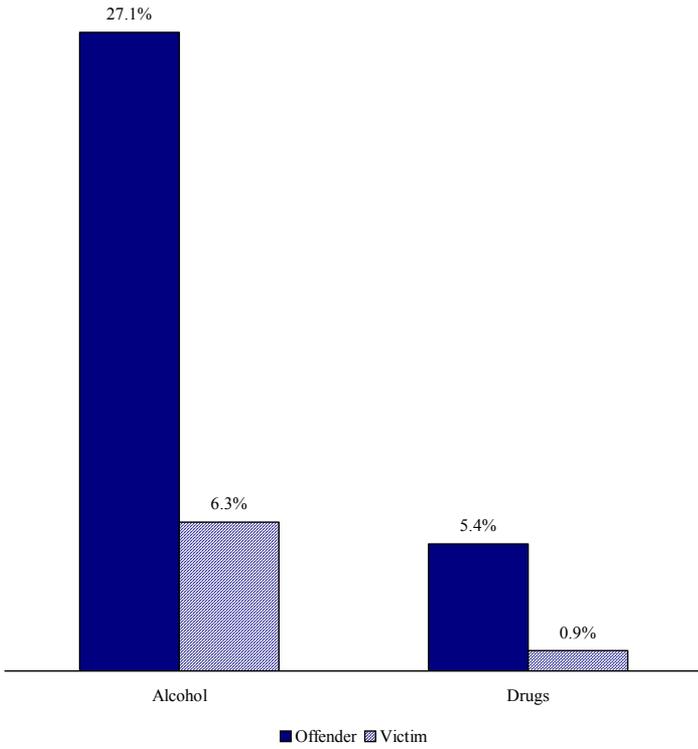
**Substance use:** SCIBRS collects information concerning suspected alcohol and drug use by both the offender and victim during or shortly prior to an offense.

**SUBSTANCE USE IN MURDER  
1977 - 2000**

<b>Substance</b>	<b>Offender</b>	<b>Victim</b>
Alcohol	27.1%	6.3%
Drugs	5.4%	0.9%
None	67.5%	92.8%

Note: Based on offense records, three substance use fields.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Substance Use in Murder: 1977 - 2000



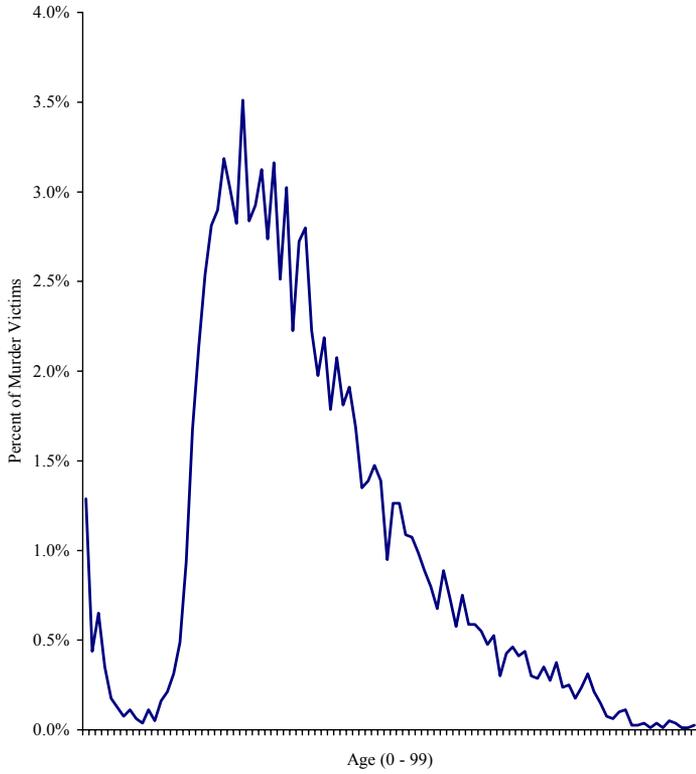
*The mean average age of murder victims was 35.2 years. The median age of murder victims was 32 years.*

**MURDER VICTIMS BY AGE  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
5 & younger	242	3.0%
6 – 12	49	0.6%
13 – 17	290	3.6%
18 – 21	831	10.4%
22 – 24	722	9.0%
25 – 34	2,303	28.8%
35 – 44	1,585	19.8%
45 – 54	941	11.8%
55 – 64	530	6.6%
65 & older	509	6.4%
Total	8,002	100.0%

Note: 21 victims for whom age was missing were excluded.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Murder Victims by Age: 1977 - 2000



***Murder victims were more often Black than Asian, Native American or White.***

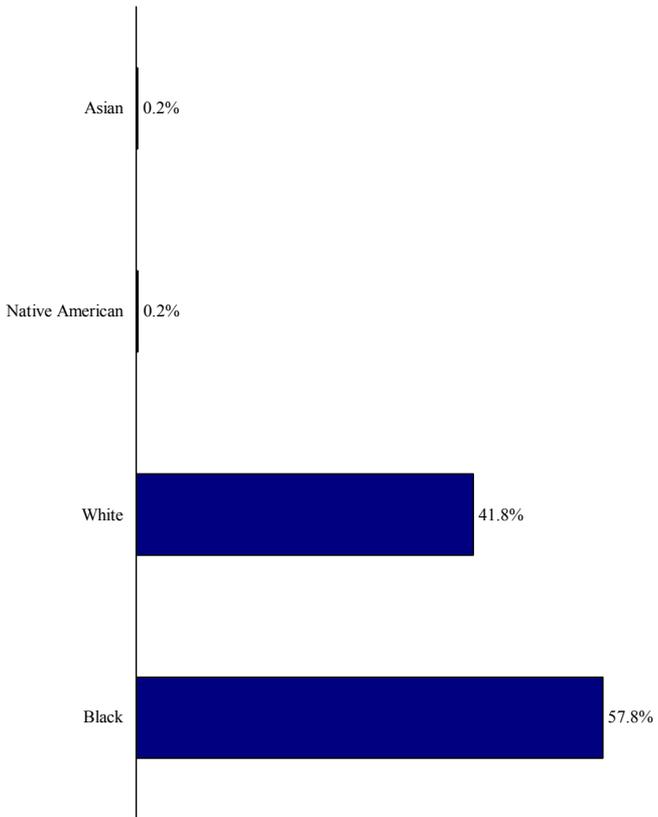
**Race:** SCIBRS has four racial categories, Asian, Black, Native American and White.

**MURDER VICTIMS BY RACE  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Race</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Black	4,638	57.8%
White	3,350	41.8%
Native American	17	0.2%
Asian	14	0.2%
Total	8,019	100.0%

Note: 4 victims for whom race was unknown were excluded.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Murder Victims by Race, 1977 - 2000



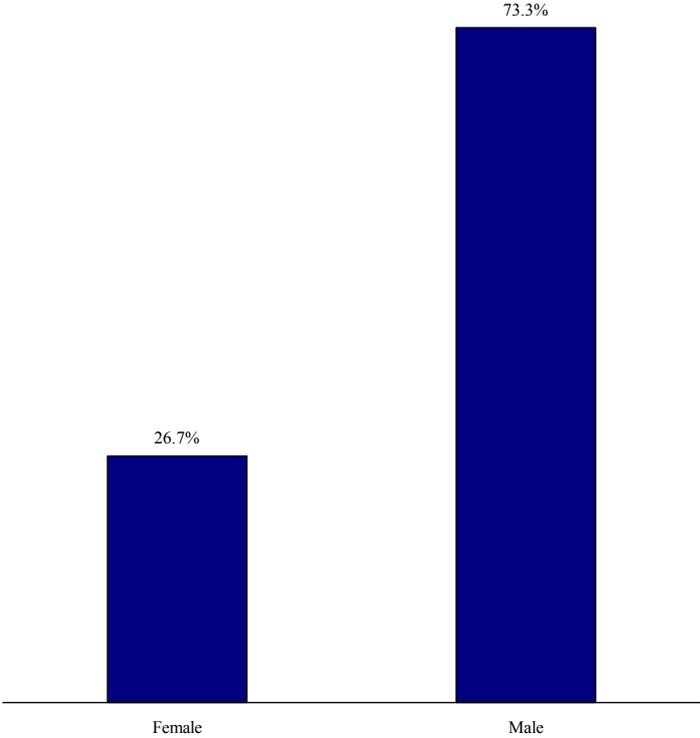
*Murder victims were more often male than female.*

**MURDER VICTIMS BY SEX  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Female	2,145	26.7%
Male	5,877	73.3%
Total	8,022	100.0%

Note: 1 victim for whom sex was unknown was excluded.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

**Murder Victims by Sex:  
1977 - 2000**



***The rape victimization rate increased from 3.3 per 10,000 in 1977 to 4.2 per 10,000 in 2000.***

**Rape:** Forcible rape is the carnal knowledge of a person, forcibly and against their will. Attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force are included, however statutory rape is not included.

## **RAPE VICTIMS**

### **ANNUAL SUMMARY**

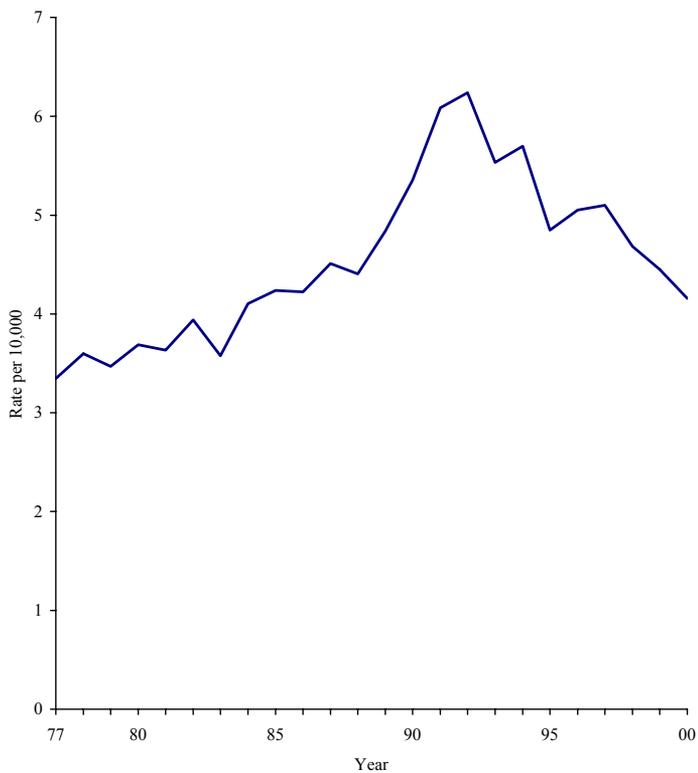
<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Victims</b>	<b>Rate Per 10,000 Inhabitants</b>
1999	1,729	4.4
2000	1,668	4.2
% Change	-3.5%	-4.5%

### **MULTI-YEAR TREND**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Victims</b>	<b>Rate Per 10,000 Inhabitants</b>
1977	950	3.3
2000	1,668	4.2
% Change	+75.6%	+27.3%

Sources: SCIBRS, SLED; *Crime in South Carolina 1995*, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

## Rape Victimization Rate: 1977 - 2000



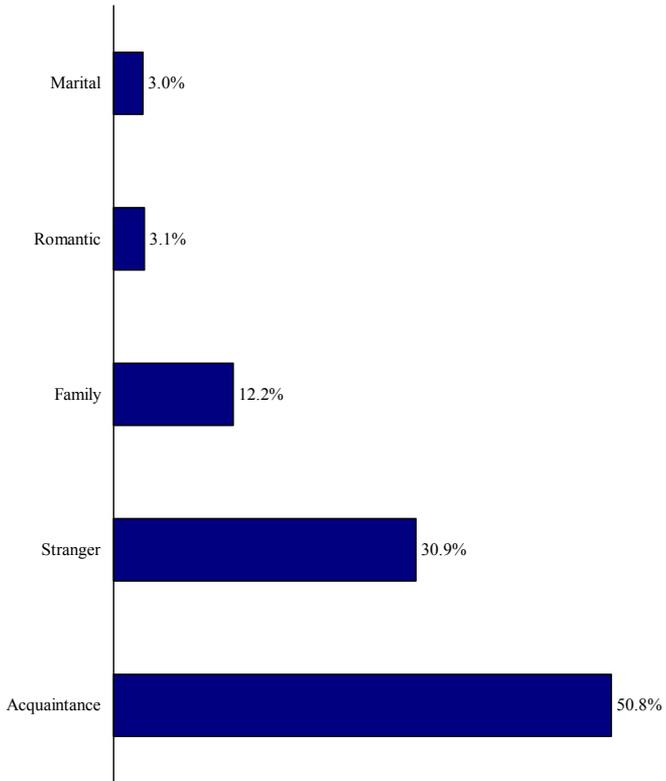
*Rape victims often knew or had a personal relationship with the offender. Strangers accounted for 30.9% of rapes.*

**RAPE VICTIM TO OFFENDER RELATIONSHIPS  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Known	20,477	50.8%
Stranger	12,442	30.9%
Family	4,920	12.2%
Romantic	1,264	3.1%
Marital	1,207	3.0%
Total	40,310	100.0%

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Rape Victim to Offender Relationship: 1977 - 2000



***Most rapes occur at a private residence such as a house or an apartment.***

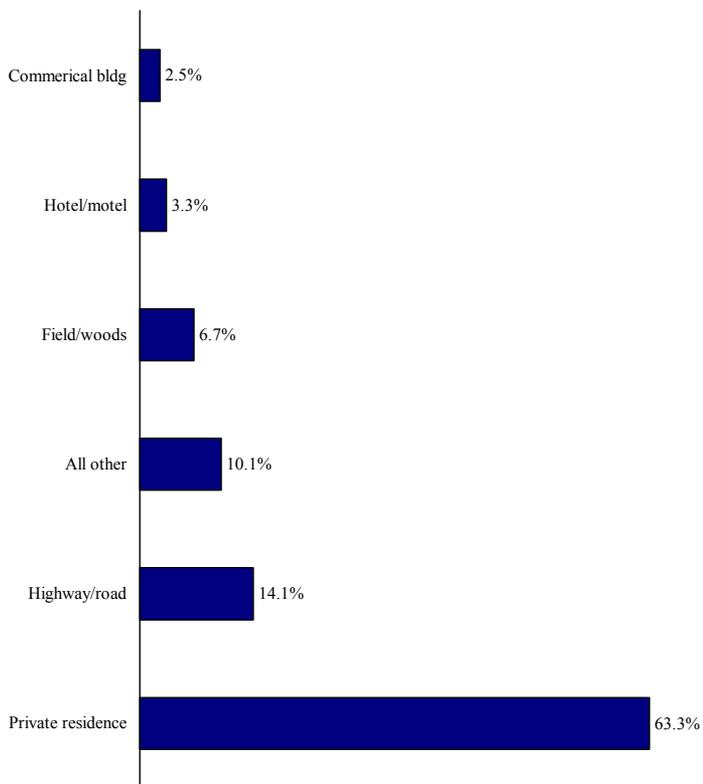
**Location:** SCIBRS collects 27 location or premise types. Those have been grouped into the categories displayed below.

**RAPE LOCATIONS  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Private residence	23,384	63.3%
Highway/road	5,216	14.1%
All other	3,729	10.1%
Field/woods	2,479	6.7%
Hotel/motel	1,223	3.3%
Commercial bldg.	926	2.5%
Total	36,957	100.0%

Note: Based on offense count. One offense record was missing location data.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Rape Locations: 1977 - 2000



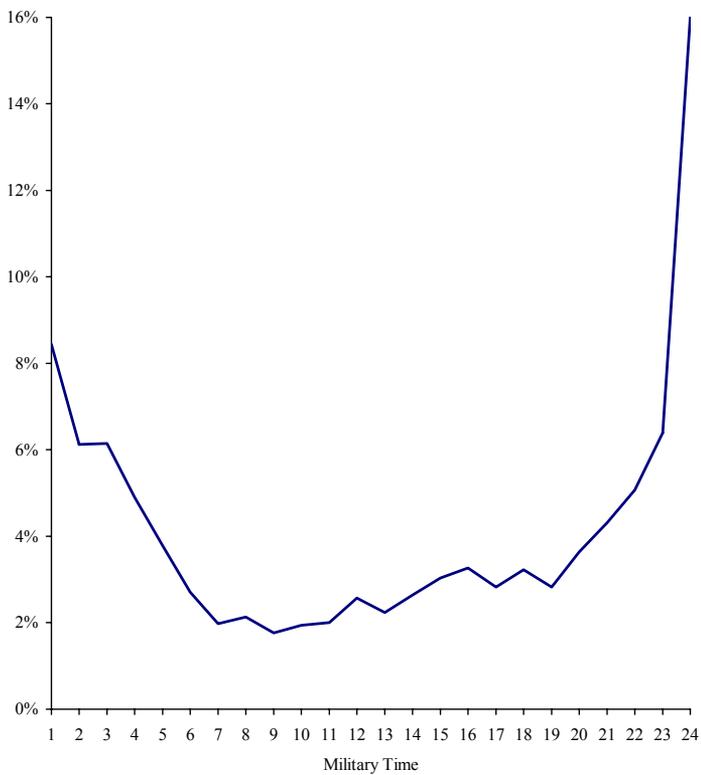
*More rapes occur in the late night and early morning hours than any other time of day.*

**TIME OF DAY RAPES OCCUR  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Midnight to 2:59 AM	10,853	30.6%
3:00 to 5:59 AM	5,261	14.8%
6:00 to 8:59 AM	2,419	6.8%
9:00 to 11:59 AM	2,026	5.7%
Noon to 2:59 PM	2,645	7.5%
3:00 to 5:59 PM	3,237	9.1%
6:00 to 8:59 PM	3,441	9.7%
9:00 to 11:59 PM	5,597	15.8%
Total	35,479	100.0%

Note: Based on offense count. 1,479 offense records were missing time data.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

### Rape Offenses by Time of Day: 1977 - 2000



*Alcohol use by the offender was suspected in 12.7% of rapes. Offender drug use was suspected in 2.4% of rapes.*

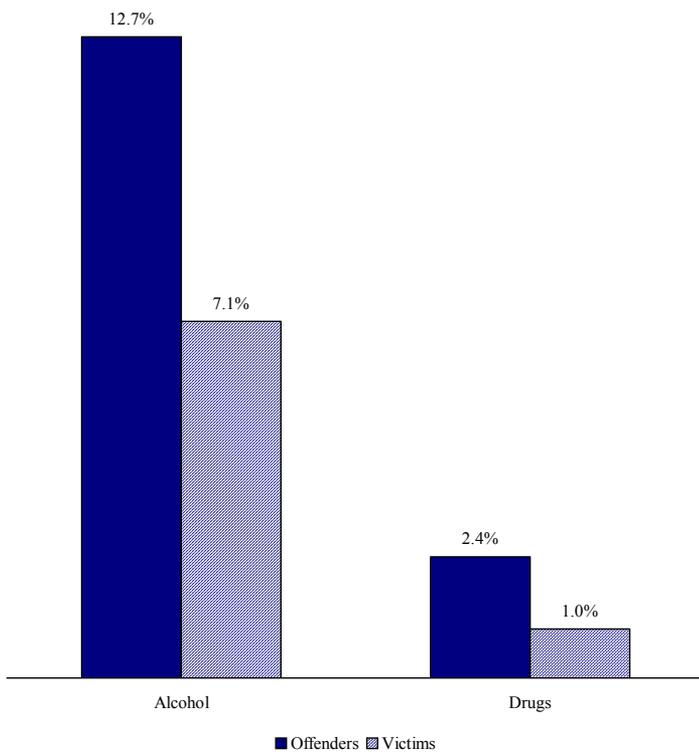
**Substance use:** SCIBRS collects information concerning suspected alcohol and drug use by both the offender and victim during or shortly prior to an offense.

**SUBSTANCE USE IN RAPE  
1977 - 2000**

<b>Substance</b>	<b>Offender</b>	<b>Victim</b>
Alcohol	12.7%	7.1%
Drugs	2.4%	1.0%
None	84.9%	91.9%

Note: Based on offense count, three substance use fields.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Substance Abuse in Rape: 1977 - 2000



***Personal weapons were used more often than any other weapon in rape.***

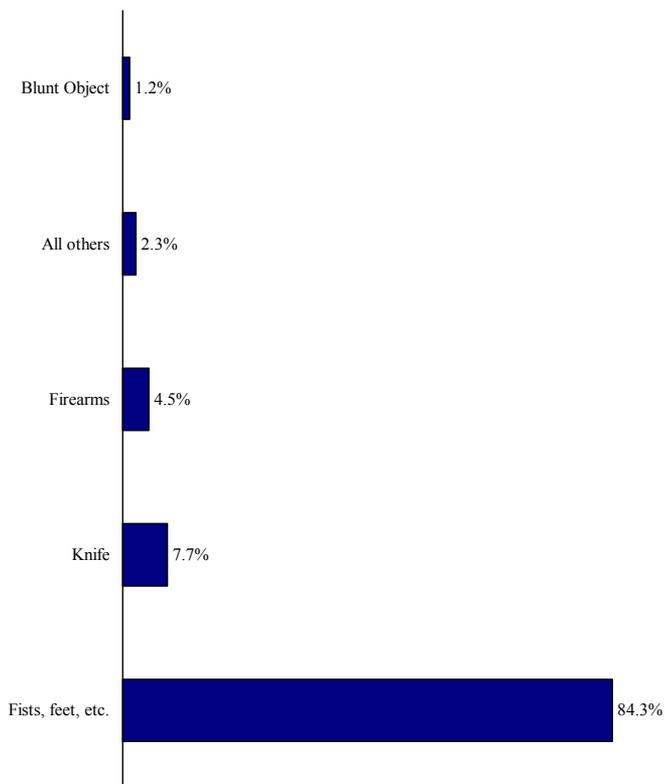
**Weapons:** SCIBRS collects information on up to three weapons per incident, all of which are used in this report. Personal weapons are hands, feet, fists, etc.

**RAPE WEAPONS  
1977 - 2000**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Personal weapons	31,734	84.3%
Knife	2,901	7.7%
Firearms	1,708	4.5%
All others	845	2.3%
Blunt object	454	1.2%
Total	37,642	100.0%

Note: Based on offense count, three weapons fields. 315 offenses had no weapon listed or were missing data.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Rape Weapons: 1977 - 2000



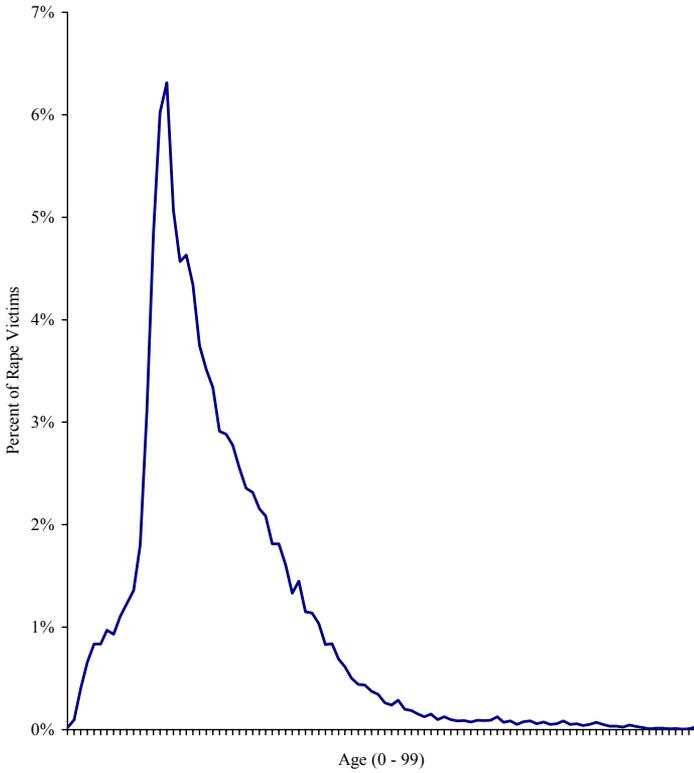
*The mean average age of rape victims was 22.6 and the median age was 20.*

**RAPE VICTIMS BY AGE  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
5 & younger	1,061	2.8%
6 - 15	10,343	27.6%
16 - 25	14,123	37.8%
26 - 35	7,282	19.5%
36 - 45	2,864	7.7%
46 - 55	868	2.3%
54 - 65	359	1.0%
65 & older	481	1.3%
Total	37,381	100.0%

Note: 133 victims for whom age was missing were excluded.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Rape Victims by Age: 1977 - 2000



***More rape victims were White than Asian, Black or Native American.***

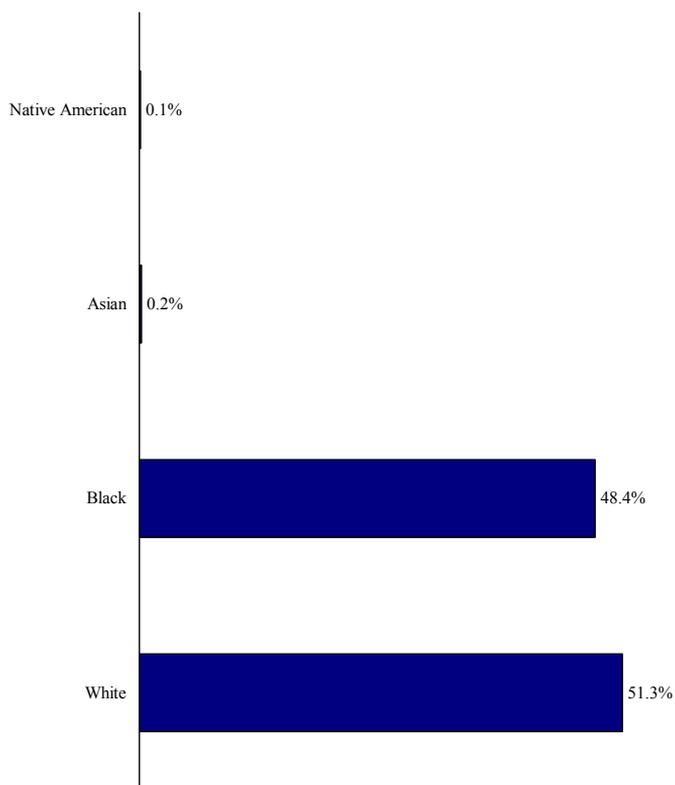
**Race:** SCIBRS has four racial categories, Asian, Black, Native American and White.

**RAPE VICTIMS BY RACE  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Race</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Asian	84	0.2%
Black	18,122	48.4%
Native American	45	0.1%
White	19,233	51.3%
Total	37,514	100.0%

Note: 30 victims for whom race was missing or unknown were excluded.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Rape Victims by Race: 1977 - 2000



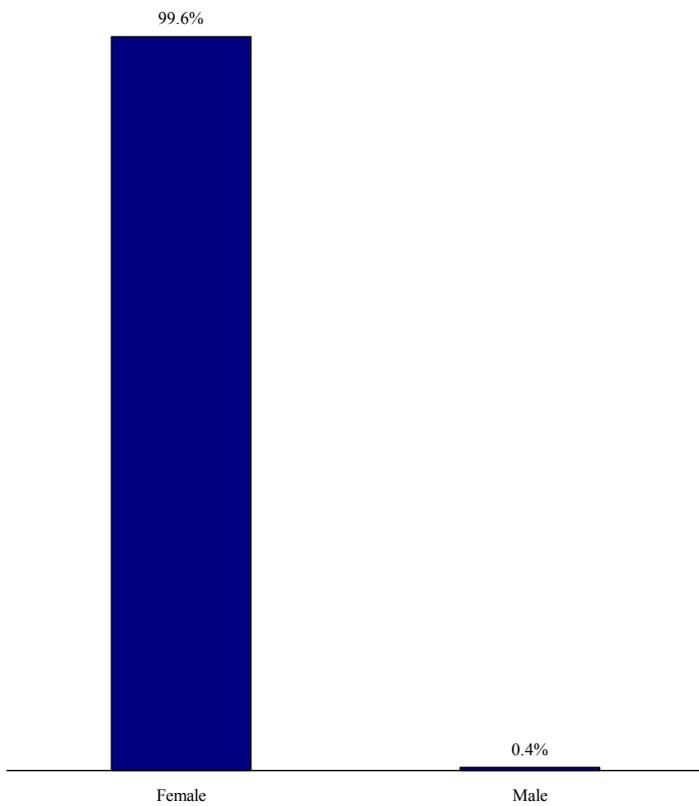
*The vast majority of rape victims were female.*

**RAPE VICTIMS BY SEX  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Female	37,351	99.6%
Male	163	0.4%
Total	37,514	100.0%

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

### Rape Victims by Sex: 1977 - 2000



*The robbery victimization rate increased from 10.9 per 10,000 in 1977 to 23.5 per 10,000 in 2000.*

**Robbery:** Robbery is the taking or attempted taking of something of value by force, threat of force, violence or putting the victim in fear.

## **ROBBERY VICTIMS**

### **ANNUAL SUMMARY**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Victims</b>	<b>Rate Per 10,000 Inhabitants</b>
1999	8,887	22.9
2000	9,429	23.5
% Change	+6.1%	+2.6%

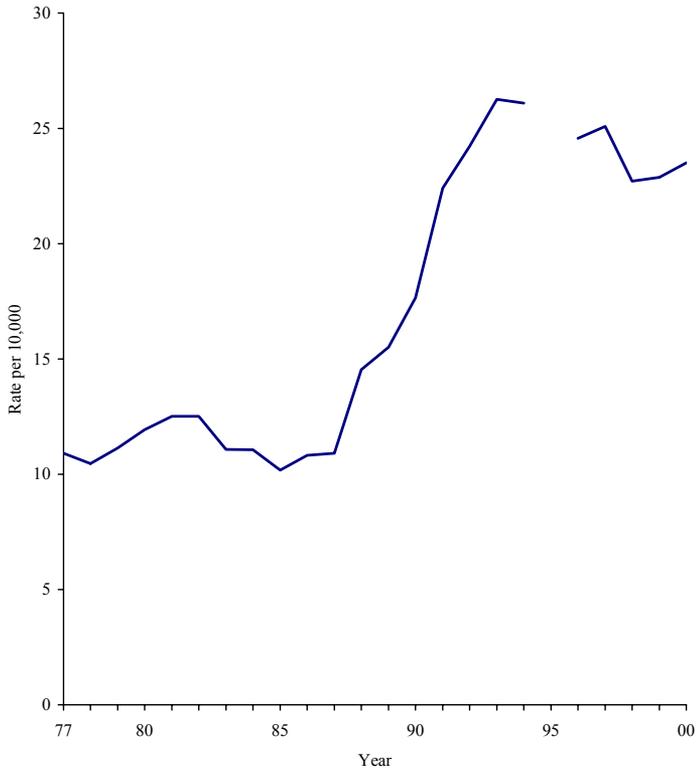
### **MULTI-YEAR TREND**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Victims</b>	<b>Rate Per 10,000 Inhabitants</b>
1977	3,101	10.9
2000	9,429	23.5
% Change	+204.1%	+115.6%

Note: A complete count of robbery victims was not available for 1995, so that year is omitted from the chart on the following page.

Sources: SCIBRS, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

### Robbery Victimization Rate: 1977 - 2000



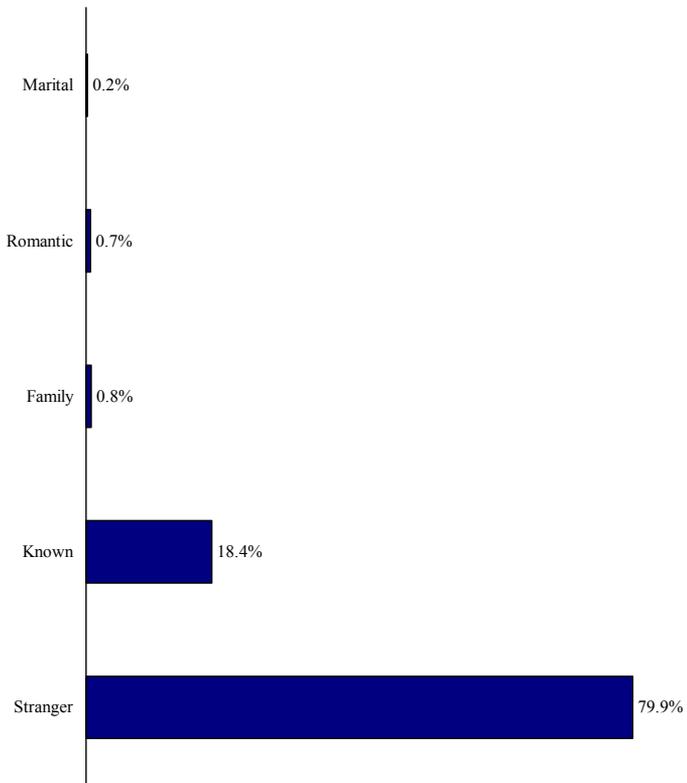
***Strangers accounted for 79.9% of robbery victim to offender relationships.***

**ROBBERY VICTIM TO OFFENDER  
RELATIONSHIPS  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Stranger	113,299	79.9%
Known	26,113	18.4%
Family	1,068	0.8%
Romantic	953	0.7%
Marital	316	0.2%
Total	141,749	100.0%

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Robbery Victims by Victim to Offender Relationship: 1977 - 2000



*Personal weapons were used more often than any other weapon in robbery, followed by firearms.*

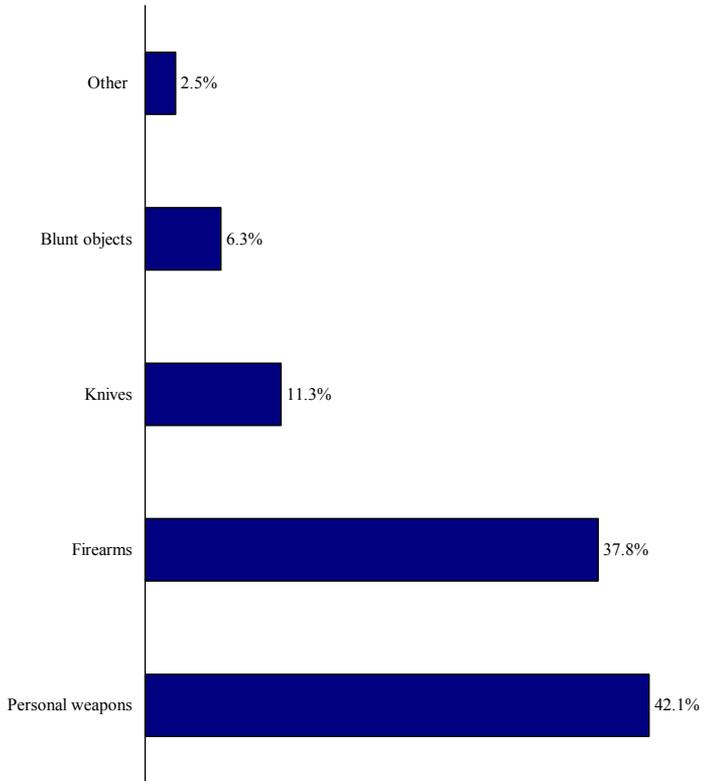
**Weapons:** SCIBRS collects information on up to three weapons per incident, all of which are used in this report. Personal weapons are hands, feet, fists, etc.

**ROBBERY WEAPONS  
1977 - 2000**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Personal weapons	48,603	42.1%
Firearms	43,627	37.8%
Knives	13,110	11.3%
Blunt objects	7,309	6.3%
Other	2,932	2.5%
Total	115,581	100.0%

Note: Based on offense count, three weapons fields. 2,959 offenses had no weapon listed or were missing data.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Robbery Weapons: 1977 - 2000



*Alcohol use by the offender was suspected in 4.5% of robberies. Offender drug use was suspected in .8% of robberies. Alcohol use by the victim was suspected in 4.8% of robberies.*

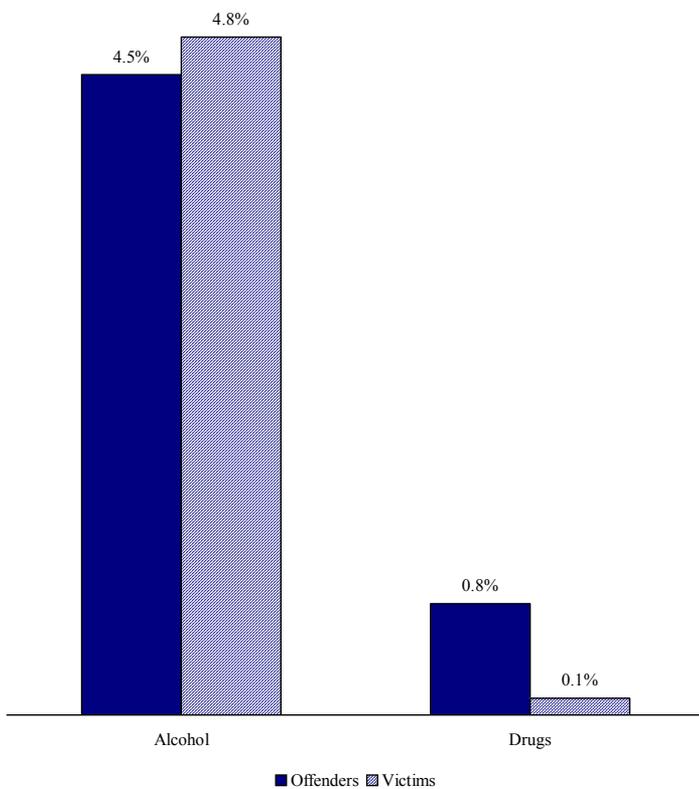
**Substance use:** SCIBRS collects information concerning suspected alcohol and drug use by both the offender and victim during or shortly prior to an offense.

**SUBSTANCE USE IN ROBBERY  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Substance</b>	<b>Offender</b>	<b>Victim</b>
Alcohol	4.5%	4.8%
Drugs	0.8%	0.1%
None	94.7%	95.1%

Note: Based on offense count, three substance use fields.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Substance Abuse in Robbery: 1977 - 2000



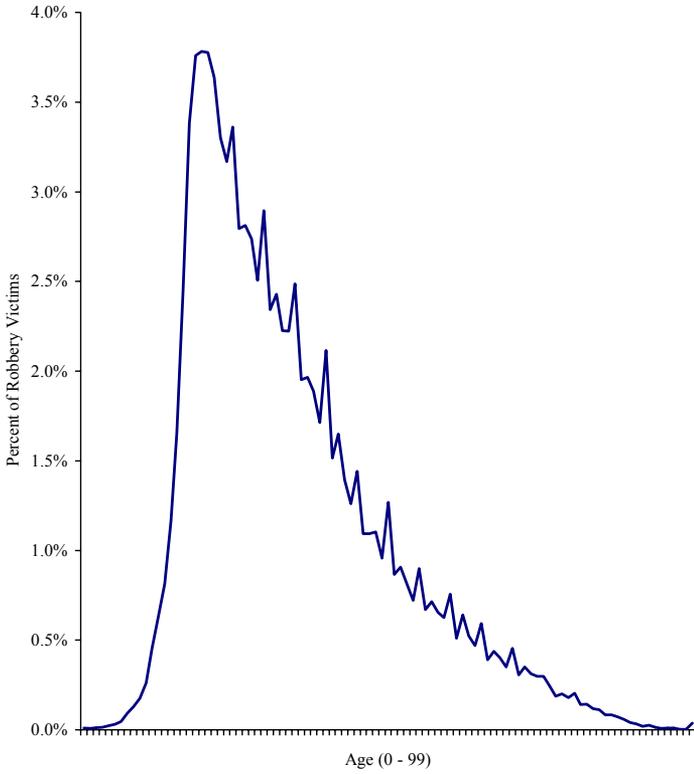
*The mean average age of robbery victims was 34.5 years. The median age was 30 years.*

**ROBBERY VICTIMS BY AGE  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
5 & younger	72	0.1%
6 - 12	1,309	1.2%
13 - 17	7,412	6.7%
18 -21	16,216	14.7%
22 - 24	11,149	10.1%
25 - 34	29,038	26.3%
35 - 44	19,789	17.9%
45 - 54	11,326	10.3%
55 - 64	7,129	6.5%
65 & older	6,861	6.2%
Total	110,301	100.0%

Note: 33,232 victims for whom age was missing were excluded.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Robbery Victims by Age: 1977 - 2000



***Robbery victims were more often White than Asian, Black or Native American.***

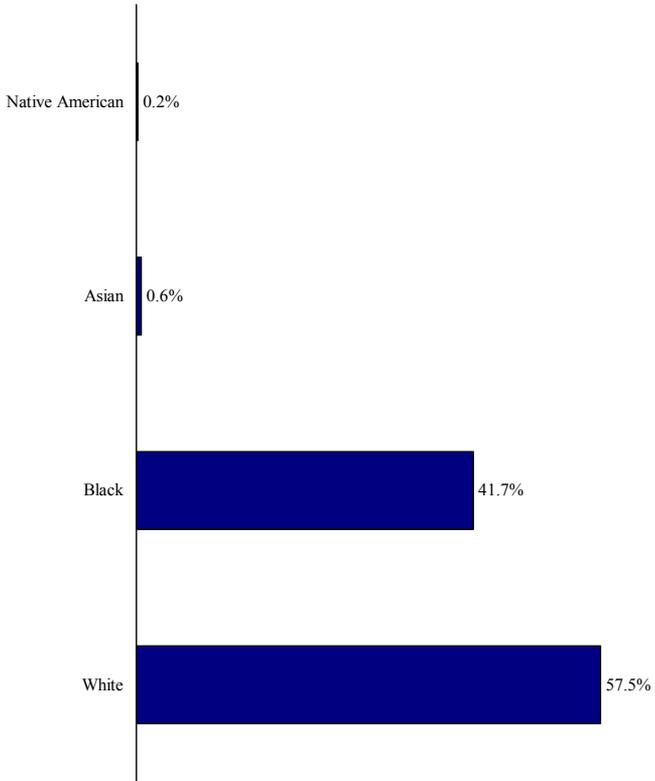
**Race:** SCIBRS has four racial categories, Asian, Black, Native American and White.

**ROBBERY VICTIMS BY RACE  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Race</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Asian	661	0.6%
Black	46,470	41.7%
Native American	195	0.2%
White	64,012	57.5%
Total	111,338	100.0%

Note: 31,195 victims for whom race was missing were excluded.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Robbery Victims by Race: 1977 - 2000



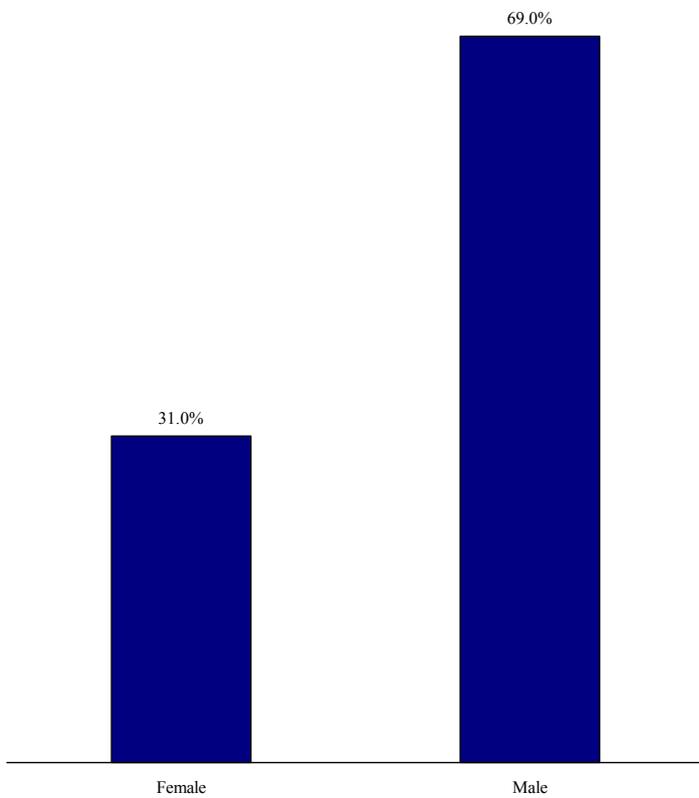
*More robbery victims were male than female.*

**ROBBERY VICTIMS BY SEX  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Female	33,499	31.0%
Male	74,489	69.0%
Total	107,988	100.0%

Note: 34,545 victims for whom sex was missing were excluded.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

### Robbery Victims by Sex: 1977 - 2000



***The aggravated assault victimization rate increased from 47.3 per 10,000 in 1977 to 62.4 per 10,000 in 2000.***

**Aggravated assault:** Aggravated assault is the unlawful attack on a person for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Attempts are also included.

## **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT VICTIMS**

### **ANNUAL SUMMARY**

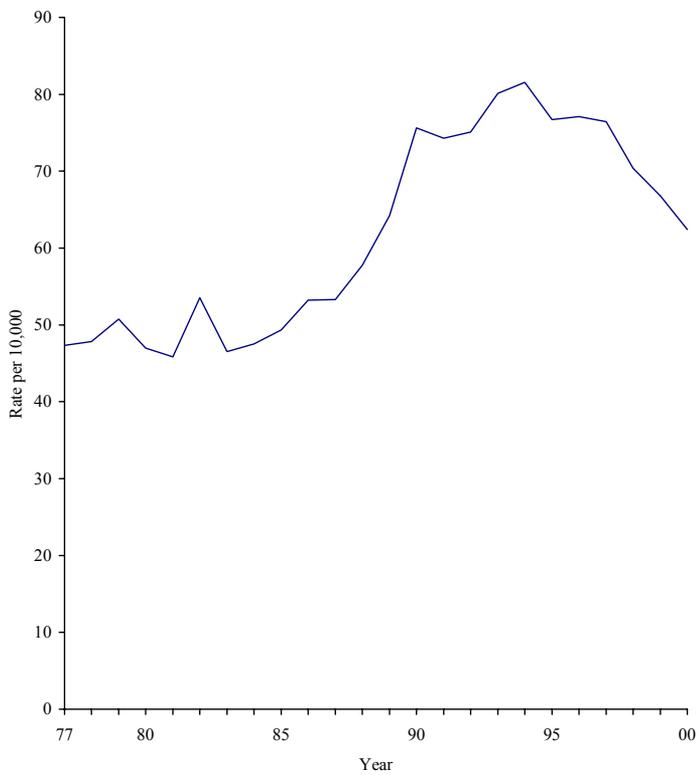
<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Victims</b>	<b>Rate Per 10,000 Inhabitants</b>
1999	25,958	66.8
2000	25,051	62.4
% Change	-3.5%	-6.6%

### **MULTI-YEAR TREND**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Victims</b>	<b>Rate Per 10,000 Inhabitants</b>
1977	13,440	47.3
2000	25,051	62.4
% Change	+86.4%	+31.9%

Sources: SCIBRS, SLED; *Crime in South Carolina 1995*, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

## Aggravated Assault Victimization Rate: 1977 - 2000



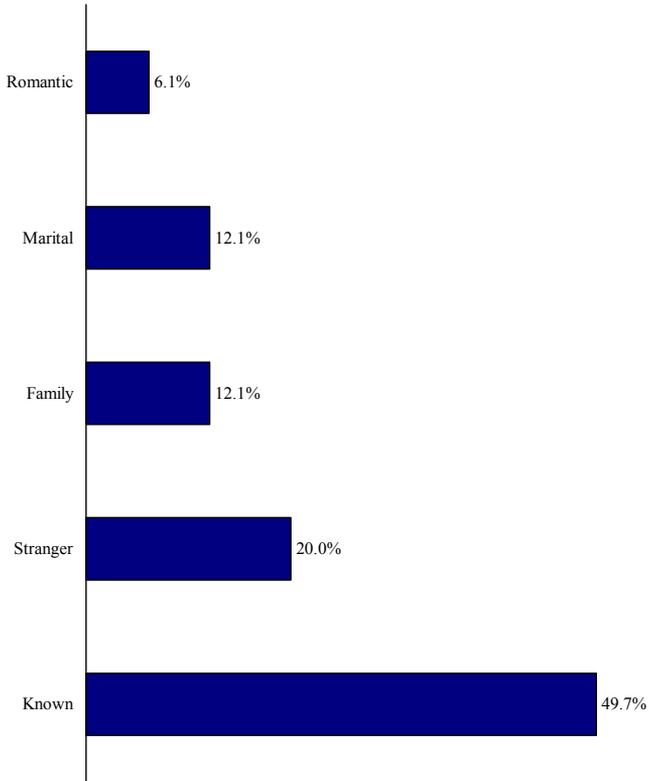
*Aggravated assault victims often knew or had a personal relationship with the offender. Strangers accounted for 20% of aggravated assaults.*

**AGGRAVATED ASSAULT VICTIM TO  
OFFENDER RELATIONSHIPS  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Known	248,026	49.7%
Stranger	99,598	20.0%
Family	60,212	12.1%
Marital	60,152	12.1%
Romantic	30,567	6.1%
Total	498,555	100.0%

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

**Aggravated Assault Victim to Offender Relationships: 1977 - 2000**



***Blunt objects were used more often than any other weapon in aggravated assault, followed by knives, firearms and personal weapons.***

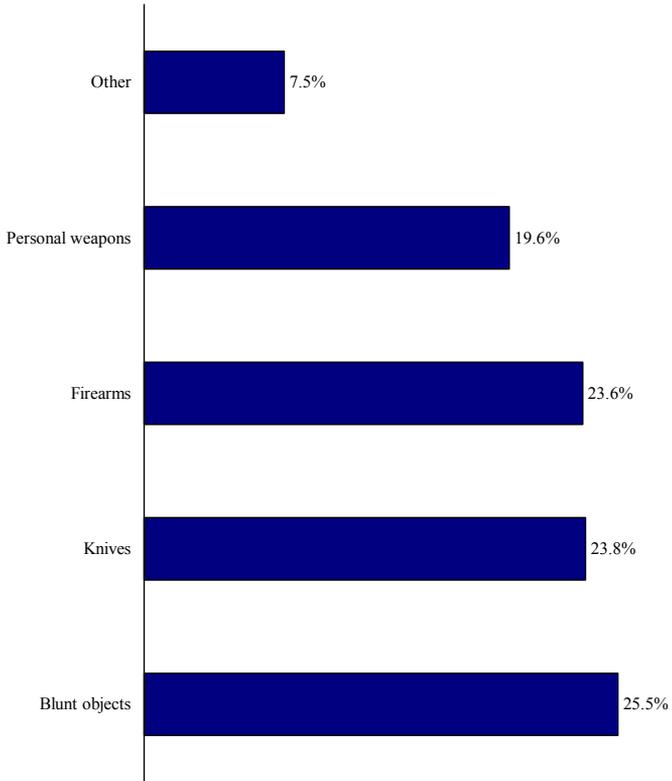
**Weapons:** SCIBRS collects information on up to three weapons per incident, all of which are used in this report. Personal weapons are hands, feet, fists, etc.

**AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WEAPONS  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Blunt objects	127,510	25.5%
Knives	118,832	23.8%
Firearms	117,748	23.6%
Personal weapons	98,262	19.6%
Other	37,742	7.5%
Total	500,094	100.0%

Note: Based on offense count, three weapons fields. 4,479 offenses had no weapons listed or were missing data.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Aggravated Assault Weapons: 1977 - 2000



*Alcohol use by the offender was suspected in 14.7% of aggravated assault. Offender drug use was suspected in 1% of aggravated assaults.*

**Substance use:** SCIBRS collects information concerning suspected alcohol and drug use by both the offender and victim during or shortly prior to an offense.

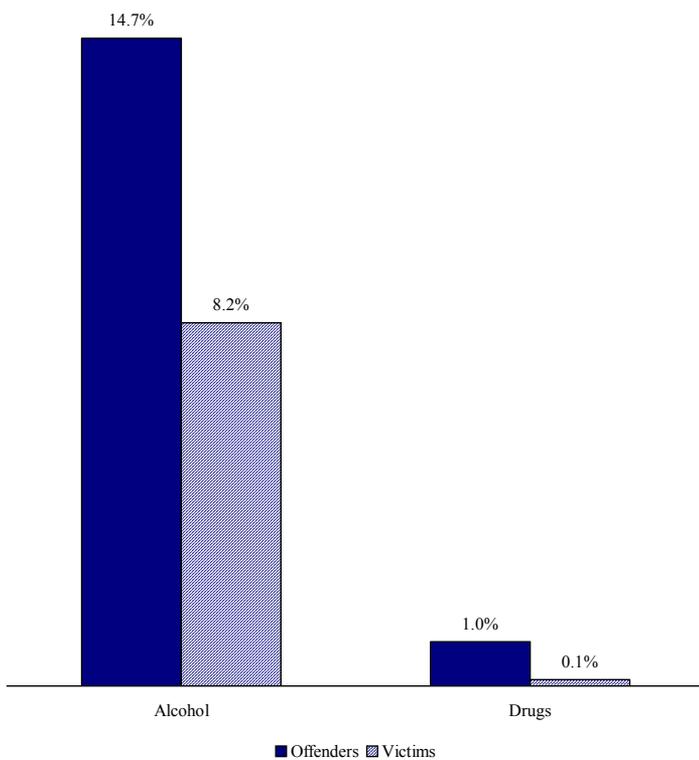
**SUBSTANCE USE IN AGGRAVATED ASSAULT  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Substance</b>	<b>Offender</b>	<b>Victim</b>
Alcohol	14.7%	8.2%
Drugs	1.0%	0.1%
None	84.9%	91.8%

Note: Based on offense count, three substance use fields. The total exceeds 100% due to cases involving both alcohol and drug use.

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Substance Abuse in Aggravated Assault: 1977 - 2000



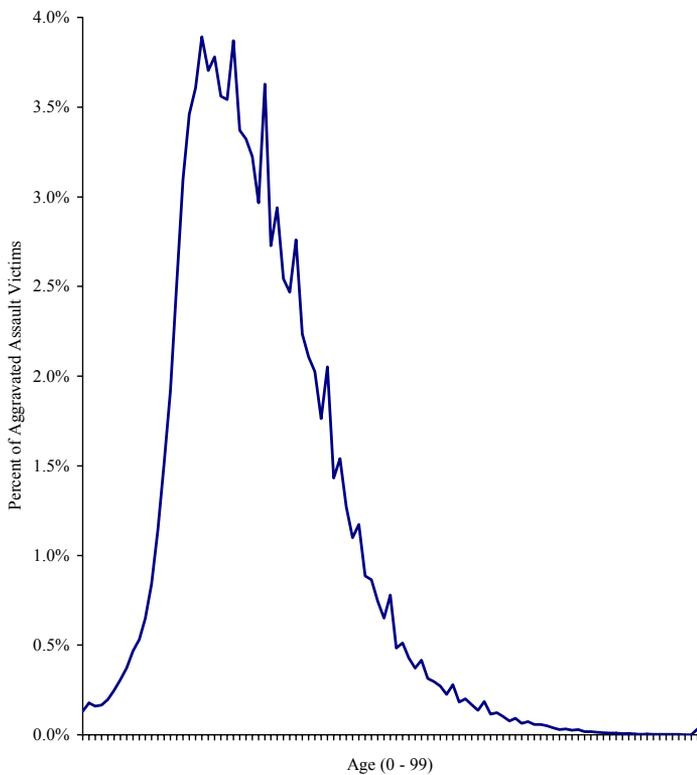
*The mean average age for aggravated assault victims was 29.2 years. The median age was 27 years.*

**AGGRAVATED ASSAULT VICTIMS BY AGE  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
5 & younger	3,797	0.8%
6 - 12	15,673	3.4%
13 - 17	46,707	10.2%
18 -21	67,221	14.7%
22 - 24	49,892	10.9%
25 - 34	142,374	31.0%
35 - 44	83,830	18.3%
45 - 54	31,591	6.9%
55 - 64	11,404	2.5%
65 & older	5,923	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>458,412</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Note: 52,769 victims for whom age was missing were excluded.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Aggravated Assault Victims by Age: 1977 - 2000



***Aggravated assault victims were more often Black than Asian, Native American or White.***

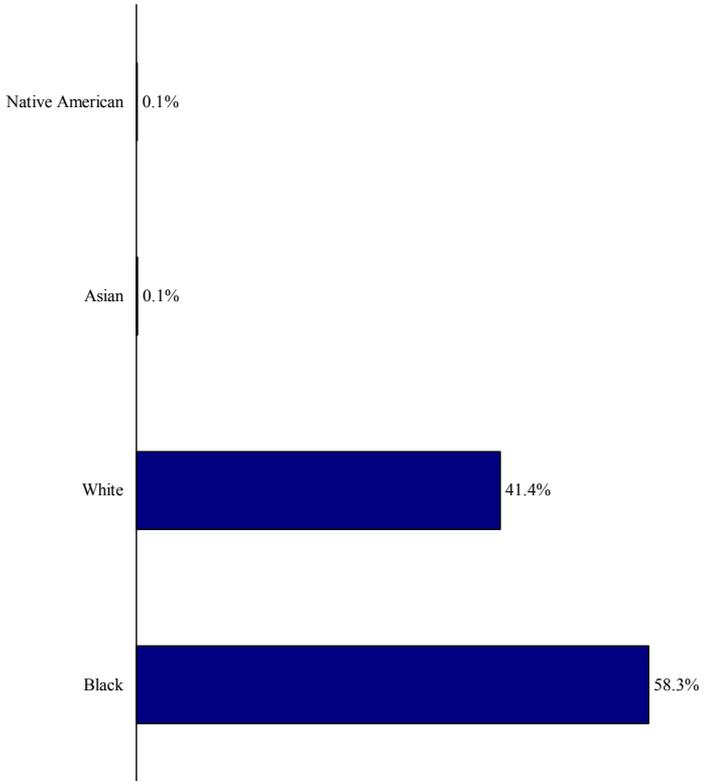
**Race:** SCIBRS has four racial categories, Asian, Black, Native American and White.

**AGGRAVATED ASSAULT VICTIMS BY RACE  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Race</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Asian	566	0.1%
Black	271,269	58.4%
Native American	508	0.1%
White	192,672	41.4%
Total	465,015	100.0%

Note: 46,166 victims for whom race was missing or unknown were excluded.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

**Aggravated Assault Victims by Race:  
1977 - 2000**



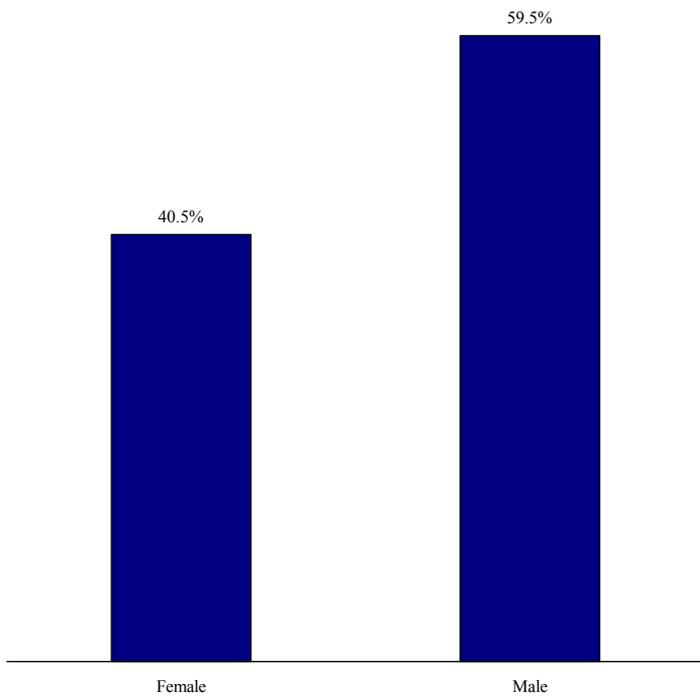
*More aggravated assault victims were male than female.*

**AGGRAVATED ASSAULT VICTIMS BY SEX  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Female	189,543	40.5%
Male	277,915	59.5%
Total	467,458	100.0%

Note: 43,723 victims for whom sex was missing were excluded.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

**Aggravated Assault Victims by Sex:  
1977 - 2000**



***The simple assault victimization rate increased from 39.2 per 10,000 in 1977 to 174.6 per 10,000 in 2000.***

**Simple assault:** Simple assault is an unlawful attack on a person, not involving the use of a dangerous weapon, and not resulting in any serious injury.

## SIMPLE ASSAULT VICTIMS

### ANNUAL SUMMARY

Year	Number of Victims	Rate Per 10,000 Inhabitants
1999	69,489	178.8
2000	70,061	174.6
% Change	+0.8%	-2.3%

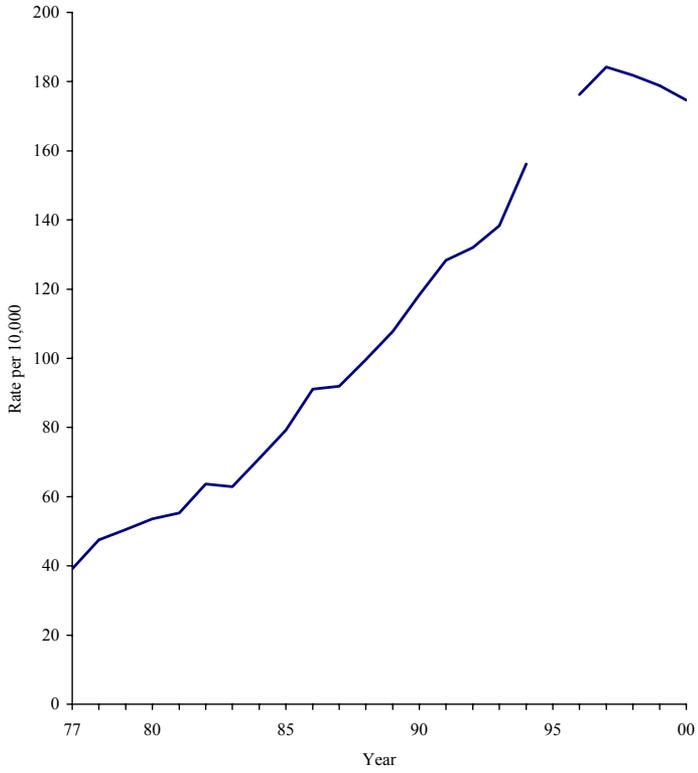
### MULTI-YEAR TREND

Year	Number of Victims	Rate Per 10,000 Inhabitants
1977	11,120	39.2
2000	70,061	174.6
% Change	+530.0%	+345.4%

Note: a complete count of simple assault victims was not available for 1995, so that year is omitted from the chart on the following page.

Sources: SCIBRS, SLED; population estimates, ORS.

## Simple Assault Victimization Rate: 1977 - 2000



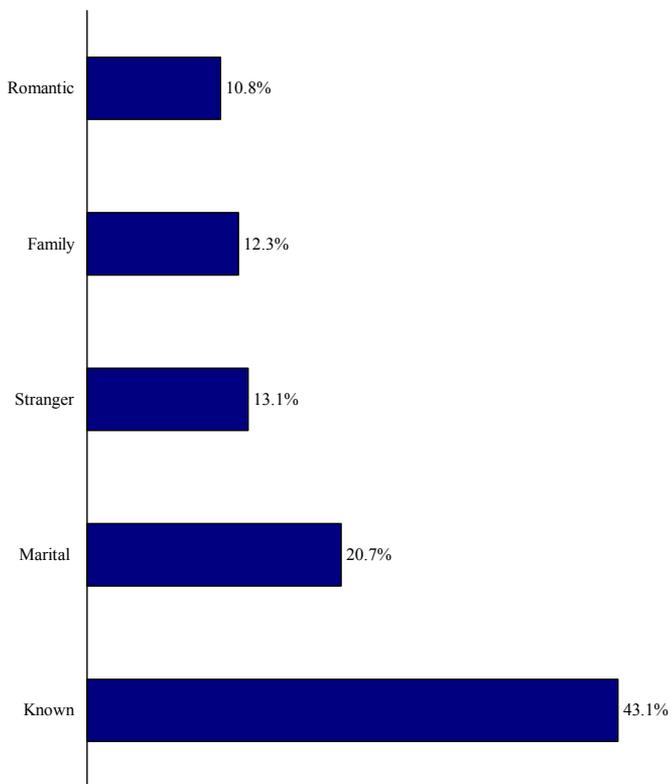
*Simple assault victims often knew or had a personal relationship with the offender. Strangers accounted for 13.1% of simple assaults.*

**SIMPLE ASSAULT VICTIM TO OFFENDER  
RELATIONSHIPS  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Known	404,241	43.1%
Marital	193,624	20.7%
Stranger	122,798	13.1%
Family	115,148	12.3%
Romantic	101,658	10.8%
Total	937,469	100.0%

Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

### Simple Assault Victim to Offender Relationships: 1977 - 2000



*Alcohol use by the offender was suspected in 16.1% of simple assaults. Offender drug use was suspected in 1% of simple assaults.*

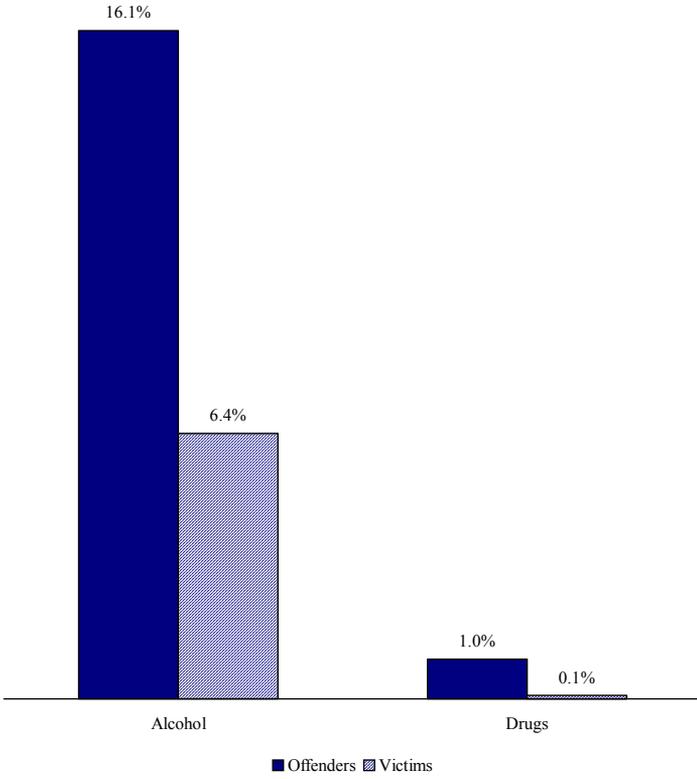
**Substance use:** SCIBRS collects information concerning suspected alcohol and drug use by both the offender and victim during or shortly prior to an offense.

**SUBSTANCE USE IN SIMPLE ASSAULT  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Substance</b>	<b>Offender</b>	<b>Victim</b>
Alcohol	16.1%	6.4%
Drugs	1.0%	0.1%
None	83.5%	93.7%

Note: Based on offense count, three substance use fields. The total exceeds 100% due to cases involving both alcohol and drug abuse.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

## Substance Abuse in Simple Assault: 1977 - 2000



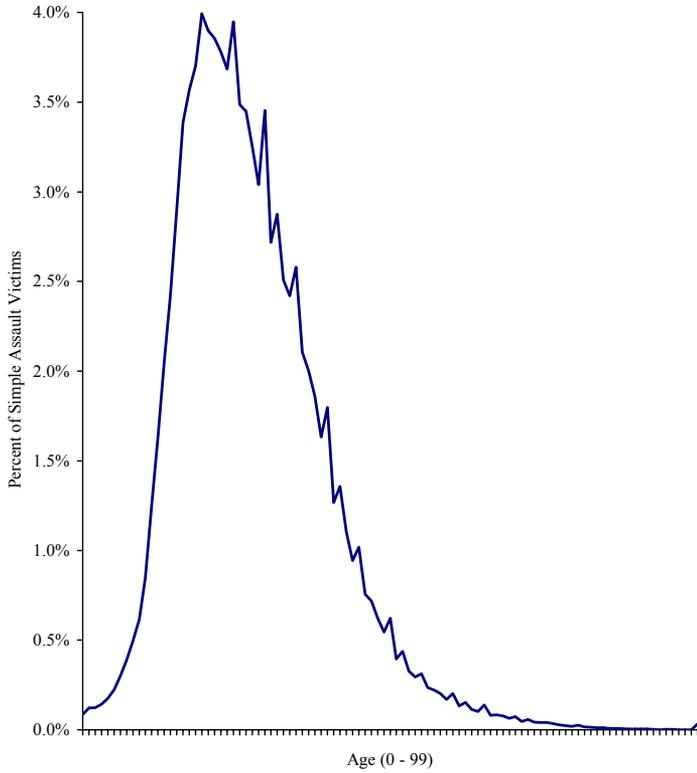
*The mean average age for simple assault victims was 29.2 years. The median age was 27 years.*

**SIMPLE ASSAULT VICTIMS BY AGE  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
5 & younger	5,664	0.6%
6 - 12	36,098	4.1%
13 - 17	108,620	12.4%
18 -21	132,962	15.2%
22 - 24	99,294	11.3%
25 - 34	273,257	31.2%
35 - 44	146,031	16.7%
45 - 54	50,320	5.7%
55 - 64	16,178	1.8%
65 & older	8,772	1.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>877,196</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Note: 52,769 victims for whom age was missing were excluded.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

### Simple Assault Victims by Age: 1977 - 2000



***Simple assault victims were more often White than Asian, Black or Native American.***

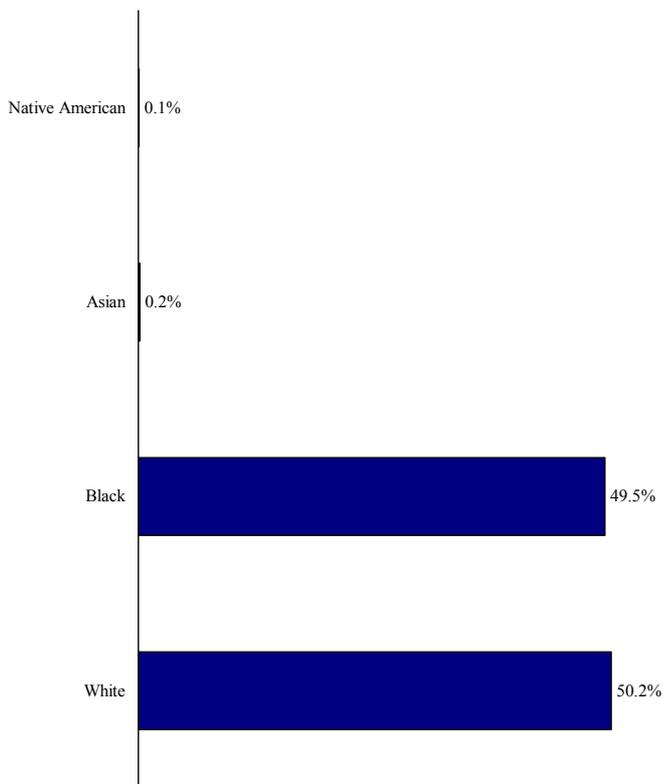
**Race:** SCIBRS has four racial categories, Asian, Black, Native American and White.

**SIMPLE ASSAULT VICTIMS BY RACE  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Race</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Asian	1,477	0.2%
Black	438,561	49.5%
Native American	734	0.1%
White	444,562	50.2%
Total	885,334	100.0%

Note: 3,723 victims for whom race was missing were excluded.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

### Simple Assault Victims by Race: 1977 - 2000



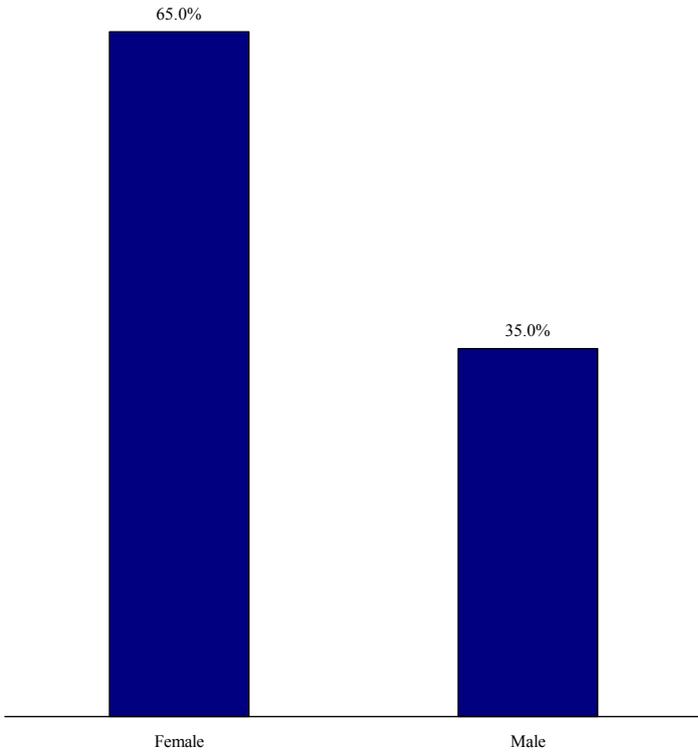
*More simple assault victims were female than male.*

**SIMPLE ASSAULT VICTIMS BY SEX  
1977 – 2000**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Female	577,915	65.0%
Male	310,538	35.0%
Total	888,453	100.0%

Note: 604 victims for whom sex was unknown or missing were excluded.  
Source: SCIBRS, SLED.

**Simple Assault Victims by Sex:  
1977 - 2000**





## **Crime Victimization Survey Information**

The NCVS provides an alternative and valuable source of information about victims. It is important to note that comparing NCVS information directly to SCIBRS information concerning victims would be much like comparing “apples to oranges.” NCVS information consists of reported and unreported victimization data gathered from a national sample of people over 12 years of age or older, while SCIBRS data is gathered from incident reports of all *reported* crime in South Carolina. It is also important to note that the NCVS victimization rates are presented on the basis of the number of victims per 1,000 inhabitants while the SCIBRS victimization rates are presented on the basis of the number of victims per 10,000. Despite these differences, the following NCVS data are presented to provide a better context for understanding the findings of the SCIBRS victimization data.

*The violent crime victimization rate decreased from 50.4 per 1,000 in 1977 to 27.4 per 1,000 in 2000.*

**Violent crime:** For survey purposes, the NCVS defines violent crime as rape, robbery, aggravated assault and simple assault. For the purposes of determining violent crime victimization rates as presented here, murder rates are added.

## **VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS**

### **ANNUAL SUMMARY**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Rate per 1,000 Inhabitants 12 &amp; older</b>
1999	32.1
2000	27.4
% Change	-14.6%

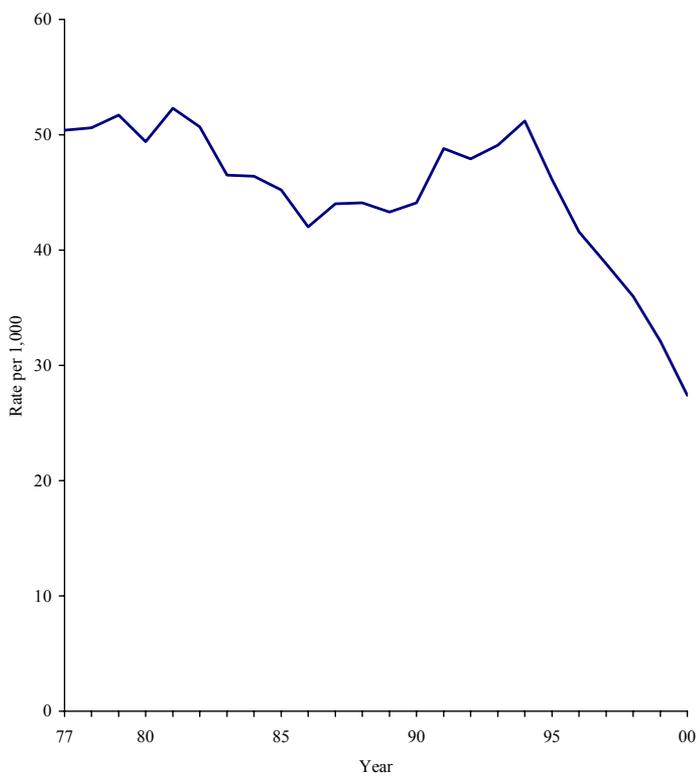
### **MULTI-YEAR TREND**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Rate per 1,000 Inhabitants 12 &amp; older</b>
1977	50.4
2000	27.4
% Change	-45.6%

Note: NCVS victimization rates are expressed as the rate per 1,000 in contrast to SCIBRS rates which are expressed as the rate per 10,000.

Source: NCVS, BJS.

## National Violent Crime Victimization Rate: 1977 - 2000



*Victims of violent crime reported the incident to law enforcement 49.4% of the time in 2001.*

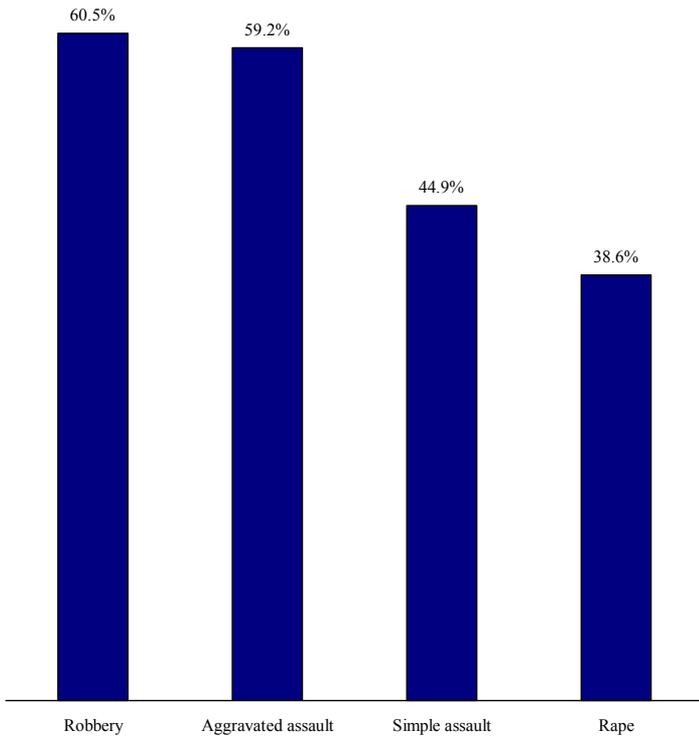
**Violent crime:** For survey purposes, NCVS defines violent crime as rape, robbery, aggravated assault and simple assault.

**OFFENSE REPORTING RATES  
2001**

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Crimes reported to law enforcement</b>
Rape	38.6%
Robbery	60.5%
Aggravated assault	59.2%
Simple assault	44.9%
Total violent crime	49.4%

Source: BJS, Criminal Victimization 2001.

## Crimes Reported to Law Enforcement





## **SERVING THE VICTIMS OF CRIME**

The statistical portion of this report presented information concerning the nature and extent of violent crime victimization and victimization trends. Important as that information may be, it is incomplete outside of the context of what is being done to serve and assist the victims of crime. The second part of this report gives historical information about the evolution of victim rights and services in South Carolina and outlines some of the services provided for victims. It is by no means a comprehensive listing of victim services or providers but rather a concise summary of some of the services available to crime victims.

## **Moments in History: An Overview of Service to Crime Victims**

**Laura S. Hudson  
Barbara Jean (B.J.) Nelson**

Since the 1970's, South Carolinians from all walks of life have been involved in helping crime victims. This broad-based support for victim rights has fostered a culture of cooperation among those advocating for the victims of crime. Both public and private agencies share responsibility by taking on the role for which they are best suited. When this collective effort is examined, South Carolina's rich history of advocacy for victims' rights and services shines brightly.

The South Carolina General Assembly voiced its support by passing laws to correct an unresponsive criminal justice system. During the last 22 years, several pieces of legislation stand out as the building blocks for

a better system of service for victims.

On June 9, 1982, the South Carolina Crime Victims' Compensation Fund was placed in the State Workers' Compensation Fund. The main role was to repay money to innocent victims of crime who suffered personal injury. The victim's fund started operation on January 1, 1983. It took four years before money paid to crime victims passed the million-dollar mark.

The second law, the Victim's and Witness's Bill of Rights, was signed into law in 1984. The law provided many rights and services including the following:

- Victims and witnesses have a right to be treated with dignity and compassion;

- Victims and witnesses have a right to be informed concerning the criminal justice process;
- Victims and witnesses have a right to reparations;
- Victims and witnesses have a right to protection from intimidation and harm;
- Victims and witnesses have a right to the preservation of their property and employment;
- Victims and witnesses have a right to due process to criminal court proceedings;
- Victims and witnesses who are very young, elderly, who are handicapped or who have special needs, have a right to special recognition and attention by all criminal justice, medical, and social service agencies.

## **Victim and Witness Assistance Units**

The legislature made available \$350,000 for victim assistance programs to cover the sixteen judicial circuits. Beginning in 1985, each solicitor was to start a program to keep victims informed of their rights, to allow input into the handling of their case, and to provide general assistance. Most of these programs were funded by the state legislature.

## **Victim Impact Statements**

The Attorney General's Office developed a Victim Impact Statement that allowed victims to tell the court about the impact the crime had on their lives. The South Carolina Sentencing Guidelines Commission set rules for general sessions court judges to use when considering the statement. The Victim Impact Statement is a way for victims to tell their story prior to sentencing.

Many judges use the Victim Impact Statement to help them determine an appropriate sentence.

### **Medical Exams for Sexual Assault Victims**

This program was designed to help medical personnel collect evidence in sexual assault cases. This service is paid for the victim in a sexual assault case.

### **Historic Dates and Events in Victim's Rights**

January 1973: Evening news coverage of rape incidents inspires local activists to start rape victim services in Greenville.

1974: The Rape Crisis Council of Greenville was founded by Jayne Crisp with eighteen volunteers. People Against Rape in Charleston was founded with Pat Weel as the coordinator.

January 16, 1975: The first Law Enforcement Training on Sexual Assault was held in Greenville. The Rape Crisis Council of Greenville and The Appalachian Council of Government co-sponsored the training.

November 1975: Representative Carolyn Frederick drafted the first sexual assault legislation. The bill was introduced by Senator Dewey Wise. The measure corrected injustices in the rules of evidence in rape trials. It also redefined rape as an act that could be committed against either sex.

February 13, 1976: The South Carolina Committee on Sexual Assault (now known as the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, SCCADVASA) held its second planning meeting. Presenters were Pat Weel, Carl Chase, Jr. of the Criminal Justice Academy, and Jayne Crisp.

November 8, 1976: The first Statewide Conference on Rape was held. The conference was sponsored by the State Human Affairs Commission in Columbia. Conference leadership met to establish the South Carolina Committee on Sexual Assault. It was recommended to Governor James Edwards that a study be done to identify better ways to respond to rape victims.

March 1978: The first Victim Witness Assistance Program was established as part of the solicitor based criminal justice system by Solicitor William W. Wilkins, Jr. This was made possible by a \$10,000 grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration which was secured with the help of Senator Strom Thurmond. Jayne Crisp was hired to develop and coordinate the program.

June 1981: The first Southeastern Conference on Victim Assistance was held in Greenville. It was sponsored by the Victim Witness Assistance Program of the Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office. Solicitor William B. Traxler hosted 300 people from eight southern states.

1982: President Ronald Reagan published "The Presidents Task Force on Crime."

1982: The State Victim's Compensation Fund was established. The fund created a pool of fines and assessments to be collected from those convicted of a crime. This pool of fines is used to repay victims for injuries resulting from crime. Senator Nick Theodore sponsored the legislation.

1982: Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) of South Carolina started its first chapters in Aiken, Spartanburg and Lexington counties. The first law making it a felony to kill a person as a consequence of driving under the influence was enacted.

January 1, 1983: The State Victims' Compensation Fund began operation.

1982 or 1983: The South Carolina Victim Assistance Network was organized. It was modeled after the Florida Victim Assistance Network.

1983: Governor Richard W. Riley established the first Task Force on South Carolina Victims of Crime.

1984: In Washington, D.C., Congress passed the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) co-sponsored by Senator Strom Thurmond. Among other actions, the Act provides money from fines and assessments paid by those convicted of a federal crime. These funds were available to states to establish more victim service agencies. Only those states that had an established Victims Compensation Fund were eligible to receive funds.

1984: The State Victim's and Witness's Bill of Rights was enacted to ensure services for crime victims.

The first law enforcement based victim assistance programs were established.

December 16, 1985: South Carolina Victims Assistance Network (SCVAN) was incorporated as a private non-profit organization.

1986: The Victim's and Witness's Bill of Rights was chosen in 1986 to be recognized by the Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments. "South Carolina's Bill of Rights may be seen as a result of the intensive efforts on the part of the Governor's Office staff and legislators to legally mandated implementation of such a victim's rights program." (The Council of State Governments, Fair Treatment for Victims of Crime: South Carolina's Victim's Bill of Rights, 1987, Keon S. Chi).

July 1, 1989: The State Victims' Compensation Fund becomes the State Office of Victim Assistance (SOVA).

1990: The law enforcement based victim advocates formed an organization (LEVA) with approximately 15 members.

1992: SCVAN formed a Task Force to study the enactment of a Constitutional Amendment for crime victims in South Carolina. First language was introduced by Representative Sandi Wofford of Georgetown.

1993: The State Office of Victims' Services (SOVA) became part of the Governor's Office.

April 1995: Governor David M. Beasley published "Victims of Crime in South Carolina 1995."

1995: South Carolina Attorney General Charles Condon forms the Constitutional Amendment Task Force to formulate language for a Crime Victim Bill of Rights to be placed in the South Carolina Constitution.

November 1996: The Constitutional Amendment for Crime Victims to the South Carolina Constitution was approved by 89% of the voters.

July 1, 1997: Act 141, the enabling legislation for the specification of victim services throughout the Criminal Justice System, including the Juvenile Justice System, was enacted. Collections from fines, fees, assessments and surcharges were retained in the jurisdiction in which they were collected to provide direct services to crime victims at the local level.

January 22, 1998: The Constitutional Amendment becomes law. One of the strongest amendments in the nation: “every victim, every time” including victims of juvenile offenders.

1999: The number of crime victim service providers at the local level grows to over 400 largely due to the influx of funds from Act 141.

November, 1999: An amendment to limit the scope of the Constitutional Amendment fails.

1999-2002: Several laws were enacted that improved the situation for crime victims. These included, the establishment of a sex offender registry, the sexual predator law, the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision, the abolition of court charges for harassment/stalking victims, the overhaul of the Guardian Ad Litem procedures, expansion of venue for Orders of Protection, and increasing penalties for victimizing vulnerable adults.

## **The State Office of Victim Assistance**

**Larry Harris**  
**Christie Zeller**

The State Office of Victim Assistance (SOVA) is dedicated to “bridging the gap in victim services.” This means we put victims first and strive to assist them through referrals, financial support, advocacy and providing information about their rights as a victim. We go even further by offering information, support and training to victim service professionals on the front lines helping victims.

SOVA can provide financial support to eligible crime victims by reimbursing them for medical, counseling and burial expenses, as well as provide lost wages incurred due to the crime. We work closely with law enforcement officers and solicitors by advocating for victims as they go through the criminal justice system.

We provide victims with referrals to domestic violence shelters, counselors and other organizations that can help them through the healing process. We educate victims by providing them with literature about their rights and the laws surrounding the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund.

SOVA works closely with advocates, law enforcement agencies and solicitors to insure victims are treated with the respect and dignity they are entitled to. We offer support to these professionals by providing information and training about victim services and how the compensation program works. We educate them about the laws and policies surrounding the program, how our eligibility department determines a claim's eligibility and how our processing department calculates their payments, how we need restitution and subrogation to help replenish the compensation fund, and the need for

us to work as a team to make sure no victim “falls through the cracks” or is violated by the system that is supposed to protect and serve them.

SOVA will continue its dedication to assist victims with financial needs and provide training and support to victim service professionals in an effort to “bridge the gap in victim services” in the state of South Carolina.



## **South Carolina Victim Assistance Network**

**Laura S. Hudson**

The South Carolina Victim Assistance Network Organization (SCVAN) is a non-profit organization established to provide coordination for all agencies and groups involved with Victim/Witness services. SCVAN was established in response to the 1984 State Victim Assistance Program Law. Consequently, SCVAN was incorporated as an eleemosynary organization on December 16, 1985. The first Board of Directors consisted of Dr. Dean Kilpatrick (MUSC) as President; Jane Crisp (Greenville Solicitor Office) as Vice President; Cindy Burch (Division of Victim Assistance) as Secretary; Jane Dreher as Treasurer, and Jeff Moore and Judy Bridges as Members. Staff support for SCVAN was provided by the Division of Victim Assistance.

In 1988, federal grant funds gave SCVAN its first staff person, Rita Covil. Mrs. Covil was a graduate student intern from the Department of Social Work at the University of South Carolina. In January of 1989, the full-time Executive Director position was established; it was funded by federal grant at first and, since July 1989, has been continuously funded by the General Assembly. The first Executive Director was Sherie Carney who served with distinction from 1989 to 1992. She was followed by Peter O'Boyle (1992-1994), Laura Hudson (1994-2000), and CEO Veronica Swain (2000 to the present).

The early 1990's saw an explosion in SCVAN activities and growth. By 1992, SCVAN was the second largest network in the nation second only to California. SCVAN and DOVA sponsored a major survey, "South Carolina Speaks Out: Attitudes About Crime and

Victims' Rights", written by Dr. Kilpatrick, Director of the Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center at MUSC. SCVAN received a grant from the South Carolina Bar Association, allowing the printing and placement of the "General Sessions and Family Court Notebook" in every school in the state. Indeed, the vitality and leadership of SCVAN was recognized nationally. Dr. Kilpatrick, Dr. Connie Best, Sherie Carney, Laura Hudson and Mary Ann Miller were among SCVAN members who appeared on national TV programs. The TV program "America's Most Wanted" provided on-site coverage of the Victims' Rights Week march and ceremonies in 1991 and 1992. SCVAN also initiated the Task Force to study the enactment of a constitutional amendment to better secure the Victims' Bill of Rights. The Task Force, chaired by Laura Hudson, represented one of the earliest national efforts.

Today, SCVAN continues to work closely with SOVA. Major accomplishments of SCVAN include the creation of video presentations explaining both the adult and juvenile criminal justice system from the victim's point of view and the establishment of the South Carolina Victim Assistance Corps, an AmeriCorps\*USA program that is unique in two ways. First, it is the only AmeriCorps program in the nation that addresses all aspect of victim assistance, advocacy, and service. Second, with thirty-seven full and part-time Corps members, it is the largest provider of victim assistance personnel in South Carolina.

## **What SCVAN does**

SCVAN advocates on behalf of all victims and witnesses of crime, provides a communication network, enhances public awareness, facilitates research and evaluation, serves as technical support, encourages quality training, educates and coordinates policy development, and encourages citizens and victim participation.

A volunteer Board of Directors governs SCVAN. SCVAN membership is open to anyone and the membership currently reflects a cross-section of victim advocates, related professionals, victim service providers, victims and concerned citizens. The Board of Directors is similarly composed. Officers of the Board of Directors are elected by the Board membership. The current offices are President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer. The Board employs an Executive Director and staff, to carry out its programs and policies

and to advocate for the goals of the organization.

SCVAN has initiated or supported many legislative and public changes throughout the South Carolina criminal justice system. These include increases in funding for victim assistance; setting up guidelines for the Solicitor-based victim advocates; increasing fines, fees and assessments plus a surcharge to provide additional funding for the State Victim Compensation Fund and the local government victim service providers (Act 141); mandatory sex offender registry legislation; the Sexual Predator Unit; improvements in child protection laws; empowering victims to collect restitution in Common Pleas court; improved treatment of child victims in courtroom; guidelines to help victims of juvenile offenders; creation of SLED's Child Fatality Unit; the establishment of a Crime Victim Ombudsman;

changes in Department of Social Services procedures and reporting requirements; and the passage of the Constitutional Amendment for Crime Victims.

SCVAN sponsors events, training seminars, and manages grants to further victim issues. An important example of this is the annual Victims' Rights Week Conference, which contains numerous training seminars, opportunities for victims and survivors to meet with their legislators, and various other events designed to advance the cause of victim assistance. SCVAN also maintains legislative committees, which develop annual legislative initiatives for consideration by the General Assembly. SCVAN administers an Emergency Fund to meet the immediate needs of crime victims. SCVAN has developed and maintains an extensive web site, and library, and conducts an ongoing multi-media educational/advocacy program.

## **Law Enforcement Victim Advocates**

### **Captain Jackie Brothers**

In 1984, the first law enforcement based victim assistance programs were started in South Carolina. This concept has been adopted by many police departments, sheriff's departments and university law enforcement agencies throughout South Carolina.

The law enforcement advocates serve many purposes. Perhaps the most important is to provide a prompt response to victims in the aftermath of the crime. Law enforcement based advocates are on call to respond to the crime scene and to provide crisis intervention for the victims. Services provided on the scene may include transportation, contact with family members or other support persons, accessing medical care and follow-up, providing emotional support, and crime scene cleanup.

After the crisis, law enforcement based advocates remain involved with crime victims for as long as the victim's needs may exist. Victims are notified about bond hearings and the initial hearings. If necessary, escorts are provided to victims for these hearings.

Follow up services keep victims updated on the status of their case. Victims feel more in control when they have information about how the criminal justice process works. Advocates help them gain access to information and community resources.

Because law enforcement victim advocates are on the front line with many victims, they stay informed about all service providers within their areas. Developing working partnerships provides victims with the best services specific to their needs.

Victims of crime have many financial needs following their victimization. Law enforcement advocates try to assist them in finding resources. One such resource is the Crime Victims Compensation fund. The fund repays crime victims for their medical bills, lost wages, and counseling costs. In the case of homicide, funeral expenses are considered by the fund. These financial needs are sudden, and quick access to this fund provides a important relief to crime victims.

Law enforcement based advocates also serve victims in situations where there is a need. Such situations include families of suicide victims, missing persons, and accident victims. These families often need a great deal of support and assistance. The law enforcement advocate is there to assist them in any way possible.

While there are advocates in many other parts of the criminal justice system, law enforcement victims advocates are often the first to respond to victims in crisis. For many victims, the law enforcement based advocate will be their only contact with any advocate within the criminal justice system.

The law enforcement based advocates within South Carolina have developed an association known as the law Enforcement Victim Advocates Association, (LEVA). The purpose of LEVA is networking, joint training and maintaining a high standard of professionalism within the field.

## **Solicitors' Victim/Witness Advocates**

**Lynn Graham  
Robert Rightsell**

The 1984 Victims and Witness Bill of Rights provided for victim assistance and funded victim advocates in each judicial circuit Solicitors' office. The legislature delegated the responsibility for direct victim court services to the Solicitors and the Solicitors' Victim Assistance Program.

The Solicitors' Victim/Witness Advocates provide information to victims and witnesses regarding the criminal justice process. Information provided for both victims and witnesses include:

- The practices and procedures of the criminal justice system;
- Financial assistance and other compensation and fees to which they may be entitled;

- Release of the defendant on bail and the right to provide recommendations to the magistrate;
- Sufficient notice of all hearings and procedures, and the right to attend them unless there is a court ruling to restrict attendance; and,
- Advance notice of hearing cancellations and postponements.

Information provided only to victims includes:

- The status and progress of the case, from police investigation to final disposition;
- Whatever right to legal counsel is available;
- The right to discuss the case with the prosecutor;
- Available civil remedies; and,
- Input into the plea negotiation process.

Solicitor's Victim/Witness Advocates are also required to intercede with employers on behalf of victims and witnesses to assure no loss of wages while under subpoena. For victims, intercession with creditors is also mandated. Assistance with the recovery of personal property collected as evidence after final disposition is another service required by the law.

Solicitors and Solicitors' Victim/Witness Advocates ensure the victim's right to present an oral or written Victim Impact Statement to the Court, and to assist in the preparation of those statements in some cases. Following conviction, statements filed by victims are forwarded to the agency that will supervise the offender.

The Victim and Witness Bill of Rights also sets out broad rights for victims and witnesses in their dealings with law enforcement and criminal justice personnel, as well as medical and other service providers. Since responsibility for ensuring most of these rights are observed is not assigned, much of the load has been assumed by the Solicitors and Solicitors Victim/Witness Advocates, who routinely intervene and coordinate with other agencies and organizations on behalf of victims and witnesses.

For cases involving victims or witnesses that move on to court, the Solicitor's Victim/Witness Advocate provides the next point of assistance for crime victims in need of counseling and other social service help, compensation and other financial assistance, information, escort, and a friendly shoulder to cry on.

## **Program Accomplishments**

In 1992, the Solicitors' Victims Advocates Forum was created by the Solicitors' Victim/Witness Advocates. Members of the Forum pooled resources to provide training and support for both advocates and prosecutors; to develop legislation and policy to overcome problems experienced by victims and advocates in the field; to seek opportunities for cross-training and joint projects with other victim service groups; and to expand the resources and services available for crime victims.

The collaborative effort of many has produced numerous program achievements in our efforts to better serve victims. Since its inception, the Solicitors' Victim Advocates Forum has performed the following tasks:

- Revised the 1985 Victim Impact Statement form to make it easier for victims to describe their victimization and the impact it has had on their life;

- Along with the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, conducted a multi-disciplinary survey focussing on obstacles to successful investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases;
- In cooperation with the SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination, promulgated regulations covering standards of service, training and certification of members and other crime victim advocates;
- Co-sponsored joint continuing legal education for prosecutors and advocates on the preparation and prosecution of cases involving sex crimes;
- Addressed committees of the South Carolina General Assembly on a wide variety of issues related to crime and victimization;

- Incorporated a complete victim advocacy training track into the annual Solicitors' Convention; and, Sponsored the South Carolina Sexual Assault Examiner Task Force; and,
- Sponsored the South Carolina Sexual Assault Examiner Task Force which made recommendations which when implemented significantly improved conditions for sexual assault victims.

In 1995, the SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination hired a Child Abuse Attorney Specialist (CAAS) to attend to child related cases, including cases of physical abuse, sexual abuse and homicide. The CAAS prepares cases for trial, serves as lead counsel and trains Assistant Solicitors in the prosecution of child related cases. The CAAS also provides technical assistance and training to state prosecutors including lectures and legal updates.



## **South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services**

### **Marian Lindsey**

The South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (SCDPPPS) created the Office of Victim Services (OVS) in 1986, becoming the first probation/parole agency in the country to hire staff whose sole job duties were to provide services to crime victims. Over the years, OVS (located in the department's central office) has grown and now has five full-time positions. Additionally, the agency has 20 Victim Services Coordinator (VSC) positions located in county offices throughout the state.

In July of 2001, SCDPPPS created the Victims Advisory Council to enhance the department's partnership with the victim's community. The council, which meets on a quarterly basis, consists of twenty

crime victims and victim services providers statewide. Additionally, in April of 2001 and 2002, the department sponsored and published “A Tribute to Victims” - a collection of poems written by family members and friends in memory of their loved ones who lost their lives as a result of crime.

The goal of OVS is to keep victims informed about their case and to enable victims to be involved in the process if they choose to do so. The following provides an overview of some of the services offered to victims as they deal with issues related to the probation, parole and pardon processes.

### **Probation**

Crime victims receive a letter from the VSC advising that the offender has been placed on probation and describing the exact sentence given to the offender(s).

Victims also receive a copy of the conditions of supervision along with any special conditions that the judge may have ordered such as restitution or “no contact with victim”. While the offender is under supervision, victims will be notified of any actions that may affect the status of the case, including consideration for early termination or violation hearings. Victims may provide input into these decisions and may attend the violation hearing to speak to the hearing officer or circuit judge.

### **Parole**

Victims receive notice of a pending parole hearing from the Probation and Parole Agent conducting the pre-parole investigation. The victim’s response is included in the investigation that is distributed to the Parole Board approximately two weeks prior to a scheduled parole hearing.

When a date is scheduled, victims receive a 30-day written notice from OVS. Victims may contribute to the parole decision by submitting letters, petitions, or videotapes of their testimony. Victims also have the right to attend the hearing and speak directly to the Parole Board. Although many in attendance oppose parole, some victims ask the Parole Board to release the offender so that they may receive restitution. From 1993 through 2002, 19,776 victims attended parole hearings. Ninety-four percent of the cases with victims in attendance were denied parole.

### **Pardons**

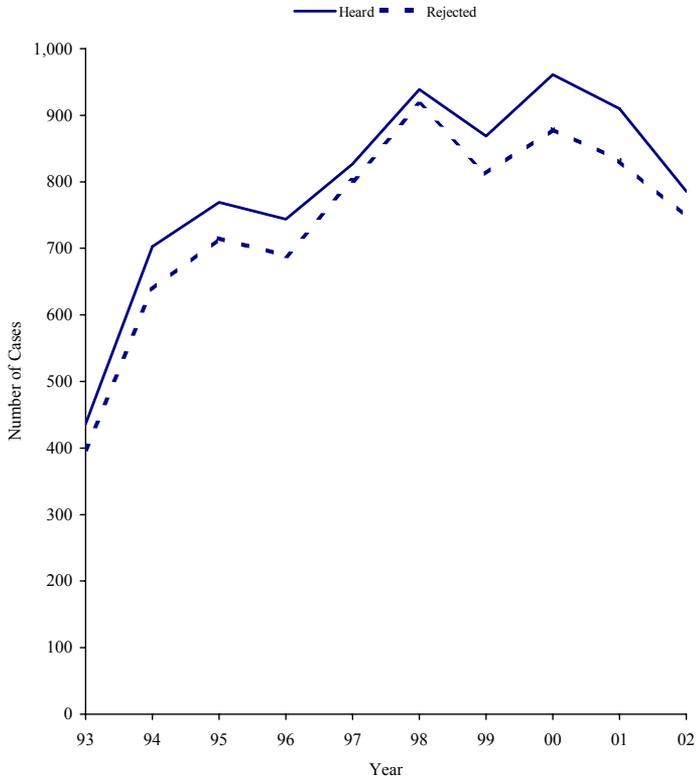
Victims have the same rights to participate in pardon decisions as they do for parole decisions. The victims receive notice from the Probation and Parole Agent so that their concerns can be included in the pardon investigation. Once a hearing date is set,

victims receive 30 days written notice, and are advised of their right to attend the pardon hearing if they wish to do so. It is a commonly held mistake that the Governor has the power to grant a pardon. Only the South Carolina Paroles and Pardons Board has that authority.

### **Restitution**

SCDPPPS county offices enforce the payment of restitution ordered by the courts or the releasing authority. For fiscal year 2002, the department issued checks to victims totaling \$5,601,227.99. SCDPPPS currently operates two restitution centers, one in Spartanburg and the other in Charleston. Offenders are ordered to stay at the restitution center for up to six months.

## Parole Hearing Outcomes With Victims in Attendance: 1993 - 2002



# **South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice**

## **Surleaner Lakin**

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) established a statewide Victim Services Program (VSP) in 1997 after an amendment to the South Carolina Constitution. This amendment requires that victims of juvenile crime must be informed of their constitutional rights and be included in the juvenile justice process. The VSP operates within the Division of Community Services' Office of Community Justice. A victim program specialist administers the VSP and is responsible for the overall planning, management, and evaluation of services to victims. The program also employs Victim Services Coordinators located in Charleston, Greenville, Horry, and Richland counties. These coordinators provide support and technical assistance to staff and volunteers in county offices.

VSP is committed to a balanced and restorative justice process for individuals who are affected by juvenile crime, including victims. Balanced and restorative justice builds safe and healthy communities by providing a variety of effective treatment programs for juveniles and numerous statewide services to victims. These services not only give victims justice but also help in the recovery process.

Victims of juvenile crime receive:

- Contact prior to DJJ issuing a recommendation to the solicitor to divert, prosecute, or any other action;
- Information regarding any post-adjudicatory hearings;
- Notification of the release of a juvenile (charged as an adult) on bond from the Juvenile Detention Center;

- Notification when a juvenile is being transferred to a less secure facility or to the South Carolina Department of Mental Health;
- Notification in the event of an escape;
- Advocacy;
- Referral to community resources;
- Access to the DJJ Victim Services Program's toll-free number:1-888-224-6165;
- Access to the Internet Victim Information System (IVIS).

An essential ingredient of effective justice for victims of juvenile crime is a staff that has been trained in victims' issues. All new staff, including intake and probation officers, receive victim services training. This one-day training session emphasizes elements of restorative justice.

## **Internet Victim Information System**

The Internet Victim Information System (IVIS) is a computer system that assists victims in obtaining electronic juvenile status information such as transfer to a less secure environment, escape, or release. IVIS also maintains victim information and tracks case activity . The primary benefit of IVIS is the automated phone notification of victims. When there is a change in the status of a juvenile at DJJ, IVIS will notify the victim immediately. Victims can call IVIS and retrieve general case information on a juvenile at DJJ. Additionally, IVIS allows easy management of victims' data. The agency received two grants totaling over \$102,000 to implement this program.

## **Statistical Information**

VSP staff collects statistical information to assess and evaluate levels of services to victims. During fiscal year 2001-02, 13,805 contacts were made to victims and 1,186 juvenile offenders were ordered to pay \$539,876 in the amount of restitution to victims of juvenile crime and 3,002 juvenile offenders were ordered to perform 112,364 hours of community service.

## **Employee Victim Assistance**

DJJ's Comprehensive Assistance in Response to Employees (CARE) program provides peer support services to DJJ staff who are on-the-job victims of juvenile crime. Staff selected to be CARE peer supporters must attend Peer Support Training sponsored by VSP.

## **Victim Impact Class**

Juveniles also receive training in victim empathy. Victim impact classes are designed to sensitize and educate the juvenile offender about the trauma associated with victimization. The goals of this training are to prevent re-victimization and to incorporate the many principles of restorative justice. Juvenile offenders are involved in a variety of activities that seek to repay victims through community service, restitution, and handmade products that are donated or sold. The proceeds go to victim organizations.

Juvenile crime victims are given the opportunity to serve as speakers on victim impact panels. These panels give victims the opportunity to tell offenders face-to-face about the traumatic impact their crimes have had on their lives.

## **Restorative Community Service**

Crime damages people and relationships. Justice should be about repairing harm, therefore, juveniles are given the opportunity to repair harm and contribute to the community by participating in VSP sponsored restorative community service projects. Juveniles are allowed to donate their artwork, crafts, and participate in fundraising activities that benefit crime victims. DJJ recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the SC Midlands Chapter of Habitat for Humanity to begin the process of engaging DJJ youth in various community service efforts. These efforts include assisting in home building, wood working project development, fundraising and donating items to sell with the proceeds going to Habitat for Humanity.



## **South Carolina Board of Juvenile Parole**

### **Saylor Fox**

The Board of Juvenile Parole's Victim Assistance Program was developed and implemented in May 1990. This program provides statewide support services for victims of juveniles committed to DJJ and enables victims to participate in the juvenile justice process.

When requested, the Victim Assistance Program provides a variety of services to the victims of juvenile offenders. These services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Provide victims with information explaining the juvenile parole process;
- Notify victims of all parole hearings;
- Enable victims to provide input (verbal, written or videotaped) prior to the Board of Juvenile Parole making a release decision;

- Inform victims of all requests for early termination from parole;
- Inform victims of all revocation hearings;
- Inform victims of all actions taken by the Board of Juvenile Parole; and,
- Ensure appropriate efforts are made to assist victims with the recovery of monetary losses.

Since the implementation of the Victim Assistance Program, the Board of Juvenile Parole has adopted a balanced approach philosophy of juvenile justice. This approach allows the Board to consider not only the needs of the juvenile, but also the interests of the victim and the interests of the state when rendering parole decisions.

## **South Carolina Department of Corrections**

### **Barbara Grissom**

The South Carolina Department of Corrections strongly believes in service to crime victims. The department offers a comprehensive victim-service program and shares the distinction of being one of the first corrections-based victim notification programs in the country. In operation since 1985, the program has consistently been cited as a model by the Office for Victims of Crime of the U.S. Department of Justice, the National Center for Victims of Crime, and the American Correctional Association.

The department elevated victim services to division-level status in 1997. This organizational change gives victim services status equal to that of programs for inmates. The Division of Victim Services is independent of programs for inmates. As advocates for

victims, the staff may intervene on any level and may cross all organizational lines of authority.

### **Victim Registration**

Victim registration is critical to the notification process.

The action to register is the responsibility of the person wanting notification. That person must provide the Department of Corrections with their name, address and telephone number. That information must be updated as changes occur.

### **Notification**

A registered victim, witness, or victim family member is entitled by law to be notified when the convicted offender receives a temporary, provisional, or final release from custody, or if the offender escapes from custody.

Notification is given for:

- Labor Crew/Work Release placement;
- Release from custody;
- Death;
- Escape and apprehension;
- Transfers from one prison to another, to a county facility, to a medical facility; and,
- Court-ordered releases.

Notifications are made by telephone and by written correspondence.

### **Automated Notification**

The South Carolina Automated Victim Notification System utilizes advanced communications technology. Available in both English and Spanish, this system is a telephone service that provides offender status information and victim notification.

Crime victims registered with the Division of Victim Services are notified automatically when an offender is released, transferred to another facility, or returned to custody. These telephone notification calls continue every half-hour for 48 hours, between 7 AM and 9 PM, or until the call has been answered. Victims enter a PIN, a personal identification number, in order to hear the notification message. In case of an emergency, a department staff contacts the victim by telephone.

## **Automated Inquiry Service**

Up-to-date offender information is available any time of the day or night with a toll-free telephone call to 877-VINE-4-SC (877-846-3472). Anyone may call this automated service to search for an offender to obtain the offender's location and earliest possible release dates. The service is available year round, including holidays. Operators are available to assist callers when needed.

## **Impact of Crime Program**

In September 1998, the Department of Corrections began The Impact of Crime Program. This is a structured classroom curriculum designed to make the offender put himself in the place of the victim and brings about a greater understanding of the pain and suffering caused by crime. The Impact of Crime Program covers twelve (12) crime specific modules and may use a crime victim speaker at the closing of each

module. The program can be found in both young offender and adult male and female institutions. The goal of the program is for offenders to examine and consider the consequences of their actions. This leads to greater offender accountability, and improves offender decision making skills.

### **Joint Project with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children**

The Department of Corrections has joined hands with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in an effort to solve missing children cases. This effort reaches a previously untapped resource, the inmate population. It is hoped that inmates having some knowledge of the whereabouts of these missing children will come forward. The goal is to focus on long-term missing child cases in an attempt to generate new information for investigation.

For this project, the Impact of Crime Program is also used to reach the offenders. One entire class, focusing on the plight of the families of missing children, is devoted to the missing children project. Both course work and videos that spotlight the missing children, and show interviews with parents of these children, were developed and are used.

In addition to the Impact of Crime Program, posters were developed showing the targeted cases. The photographs of the children show their appearance when they disappeared and an age progression photograph depicts what their appearance would be today. These posters are displayed in the living areas in each of the Department of Corrections institutions. A toll free telephone number is displayed so information about missing children can be reported.



# **The South Carolina Department of Public Safety**

**Burke O. Fitzpatrick**  
**Barbara Jean (B.J.) Nelson**

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs (OJP) is responsible for the management and oversight of criminal justice federal and state grant funds. One very important focus of these responsibilities is grant funding programs for victim services. The Victim Services Grant Program, is an important part of OJP, not only because it manages grant funds that affect the lives of crime victims statewide, but also because it maintains an important link to the victim service providers across the state. This allows OJP to coordinate its funding efforts within the framework of a statewide strategy, ensuring that the efforts come together to provide better services for crime victims.

## **Victim Services Grant Program**

The Victim Services Grant Program awards, administers, and monitors one state and two federal grant programs. The three grant programs are the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act Federal Formula Grant Program (VAWA), and the State Victim Assistance Program, (SVAP). Each of these grant programs has specific funding requirements known as purpose areas.

VOCA has four purpose areas: victims of sexual assault, victims of spousal abuse, victims of child abuse and neglect, and previously under-served victims. VOCA funding for the past four fiscal years has averaged nearly \$5.3 million funding an average of 117 applications per year.

The VAWA purpose areas are prosecution, law enforcement, direct services, courts and discretionary (anything that does not fit in the previous categories). VAWA funding for the past four years has averaged \$1.9 million, funding an average of 38 applications each of those years.

SVAP's purpose areas are prosecution, law enforcement, direct services, courts, law enforcement victim assistance training programs and discretionary. Funding for the past four years has averaged nearly \$3.2 million, funding an average of 33 applications per year.

The Victim Services Grant Program Office works closely with service providers to coordinate a statewide response for victim service strategies. It is hoped that these efforts serve to lessen the suffering of crime victims and help them return to their lives.